Reviewer’s report

Title: Disrespect and abuse of women during the process of childbirth in the 2015 Pelotas birth cohort.

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Fariyal Fikree

Reviewer’s report:

Overall the subject is of immense interest to researchers in the related fields of violence against women and Safe Motherhood. While the manuscript highlights a few pertinent issues, I have a few comments and suggestions.

Background: This section will benefit from an extensive international literature review to highlight what specifically needs additional research that this manuscript is contributing to. For example, on Page 6, lines 15 - 28, simply mentions that 'large numbers of women are victims of this type of violence' ... but does not address the more pertinent issues of the prevalence and in particular the 'factors' associated with disrespect and abuse during childbirth.

Methods: The methods section is well described and informative. However, it will be helpful if the authors discuss their rationale for opting for poisson regression rather than other multivariate analytic approaches. In addition, potential socio-demographic risk factors, age, skin color, marital status, education and income, were included in the first level analyses. What was the rationale - a more extensive literature review as suggested will address. Furthermore, the authors mention (Page 9, lines 5-6) 'a priori decision to retain family income and women' age" - will be helpful if the authors their rationale for inclusion in all models used to building the hierarchical causal model.

Results:

Page 10, lines 13 - 18): please review text and include the relevant table.

Page 10 (line 37): 'linked to universities' - data not shown. How many university teaching hospitals are located in Pelotas? Please review the entire para (page 10, lines 34-45) for clarity - it is confusing to the reader with no data associated to reflect on.

Please review the results section critically, to assess whether the results shed light (with data findings) on the objectives and does add to the global body of evidence on disrespect and abuse of women during childbirth.

Please review the tables numbering and content - does not align with the text.
Discussion:

Page 10 (line 52 - 58): Please review the numbers carefully to avoid 'double counting'.

Page 11 (lines 14 - 26): Please review for clarity. For example, what are the authors stating and how does the text relate to the results described either in the text in the results section or in the tables.

Page 11 (lines 30 - 55): suggest including relevant text in the background as a rationale for relating to one of the objective/prevalence of the manuscript.

Page 12 (lines 1 - 10): data not shown either in tables or text. Please include or delete as appropriate

Page 12 (lines 12 - 35): Please review text for clarity.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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