Reviewer’s report

Title: Undertaking a randomised controlled trial in the police setting: methodological and practical challenges

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Reviewer: Sumedha Chhatre

Reviewer’s report:

This pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial investigated the effectiveness of a face-to-face training intervention for frontline officers in handling individuals and incidents affected by mental ill health, in comparison to routine training. It is an important and interesting research work. A few questions that need to be discussed: (1) A flow chart of study design will be helpful (2) When a station was randomized to 'intervention' did the 'frontier' officers have an option to decline participation in the training? If yes, does this introduce selection bias? (3) Was 'pre' and 'post' knowledge of officers regarding identifying mental health issues measured? This can have implications for outcomes. (4) What about 'recording of mental health incident' for those in the control group? Did they undergo the pilot as well?

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