

Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring Attitudes, Behaviours, and Influences in Inner City Victims of Interpersonal Violence (VIVs) A Swiss Emergency Room Pilot Study

Version: 1 **Date:** 10 March 2010

Reviewer: Beat Schnüriger

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting article. The investigators conducted a survey of victims of interpersonal violence (VIVs) in the emergency departments of two hospitals in Switzerland. The survey is meant to be a pilot regarding feasibility and comprehensibility for investigating social and demographic factors which might influence the risk of violence. This is a very relevant topic. As nicely pointed out by the authors, a characterization of VIVs, can help to detect vulnerable groups, and may significantly impact future programs to prevent youth violence. There are some limitations of the study, which have been mentioned by the authors. These limitations are expected and typically related to the natural restrictions of any questionnaire, especially in this subgroup of young patients. I have no major compulsory revisions, however, a few comments and questions to the investigators:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The numbers and percentages should be included in the results section of the abstract. The 'Results' section might be expanded by the findings regarding feasibility (e.g. 100 of 189 approached VIVs agreed to participate, ...)
2. The last paragraph of the 'Material and methods' section contains very important results regarding number of VIVs approached, number of patients actually included, and number of VIVs who agreed to participate. These numbers might be better placed within the results section (e.g. General data) because they are essential regarding feasibility and comprehensibility of such a survey. Adding a figure illustrating the outline (including number and reasons for exclusion) would help. The authors should check the numbers in the sentence: "In total, 100 VIVs agreed to complete the questionnaire, including 69 men and 19 women".
3. What were the reasons for describing the answers of 69 men without the 19 women?
4. Answer to question 27: What was the percentage of hip hop/ rap music fans of VIVs?

Discretionary Revisions

1. Are there any numbers regarding development of the violence in Switzerland over the past couple of years available? If yes, they might be added to the first paragraph of the 'Introduction' section.
2. The discussion section might be expanded by the authors' thoughts regarding

feasibility and comprehensibility of the survey.

Thanks again for this opportunity to review this study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.