

Review of Psu Mcnair Scholars Journal Manuscript #1155

- **Manuscript Title:** *"Prevalence and Use of Guns in Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence"*
- **Author:** Cummings, C.

Strengths

The author clearly identifies the issues being addressed by the two studies described within the manuscripts. The research questions and hypotheses for each study are theoretically-based and follow nicely from each study's introductory theoretical and empirical background summary. Further, the methods, analytic approaches, and interpretations of results are clearly defined and are appropriate to the corresponding research questions or hypotheses. Finally, the subject matter covered in the manuscript's two studies is both relevant to current events in the United States, and represent two significant problems facing U.S. policy and public health efforts.

Suggested Edits

- **P.1 (Introduction paragraph 1):** The author states that, "...about 1 in 4 female United States citizens and 1 in 7 male United States citizens reporting a lifetime prevalence of IPV victimization, as of 2005 (Breiding, Black, & Ryan, 2008)", however, Breiding et al. (2008) did not actually assess U.S. citizenship in the survey that generated data for the stated statistic. This statement should therefore be reworded in a way that most accurately represents the data from the cited source: "The BRFSS is an ongoing, annual, random-digit-dialed (RDD) telephone survey developed by the CDC to provide surveillance of health behaviors and health risks among the non-institutionalized adult population (aged \geq 18 years) of the U.S. and several U.S. territories. The survey was administered in either English or Spanish, depending on the native language spoken by the study participant." (Breiding et al., 2013, p. 113).
- **P. 1 (and throughout manuscript):** The author frames intimate partner violence and gun violence as social problems (e.g., see p. 1 of manuscript), whereas these have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention Division, primarily as public health issues (see APA, 2013; Black et al., 2011, p. 7). The author might reframe IPV and gun violence as both public health issues *and* social problems in order to align the manuscript with the most current definitions of these issues in the U.S.
 - American Psychological Association. (2013). *Gun violence: Prediction, prevention, and policy*. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pubs/info/reports/gun-violence-prevention.aspx>
 - Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence*

Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- **P. 1 & P. 11 (References):** The citation provided for the author's quoted definition on P.1, "Intimate Partner Violence. (2015, May 28). Retrieved August 7, 2015, from <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/>" could be modified to cite the actual print source for this quote, which would be page 18 of the following source: Breiding MJ, Basile KC, Smith SG, Black MC, Mahendra RR. *Intimate Partner Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements, Version 2.0.* Atlanta (GA): National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015
- **P. 4 (Study 1 Discussion paragraph 1):** The author states that, "IPV can take on various forms, ranging from including psychological aggression, injury, physical assault and sexual coercion." As it is currently worded, this statement seems to imply an ordered range based on the severity of the form of IPV (note that a similar statement is made in the final paragraph on page 10). The author might consider revising this to be less ordinal by replacing "ranging from" with "including", as past research suggest that forms of IPV do not necessarily fall on an ordinal scale based on severity, due to variations in the overall impact each form, or the combination of forms of IPV perpetration, can have, as well as variations in severity that occur within each form of IPV perpetration.
- P. 10 (Study 2 Discussion paragraph 2):** The author states that, "It is unclear whether future research will have the ability to do so, as people may believe that disclosing this information could put them in legal trouble." A more useful discussion point here might be one that suggests one or more ways, based on the reviewed research, that future researchers could address this particular methodological challenge.

Questions Considered for Review¹

Presentation Quality and Integrity:

- **Presentation/Style**
 - Is the writing style clear and appropriate to the readership?
 - Are any tables or graphics clear to read and labeled appropriately?
- **Data & References**
 - Are all relevant and appropriate accompanying data, citations, or references provided in the manuscript?

Content Quality:

- **Originality**

- Is the work presented in the manuscript novel?
 - Does it contain significant additional material to that already published?
 - **Relevance**
 - Is the research timely, cutting edge, and/or topical?
 - **Research Implications**
 - Does it help to expand or further research in this subject area?
 - **Theoretical Integrity**
 - Does it significantly build on (the author's) previous work?
 - **Scientific Integrity**
 - Is the methodology presented in the manuscript and any analysis provided both accurate and properly conducted?
 - **Significance**
 - What is the significance and potential impact of the manuscript? Is this accurately conveyed in the manuscript?
1. Questions considered for this review are closely based on guidelines and best practices provided to authors and reviewers by the **Taylor & Francis Publishing Group**. These guidelines can be found at the following web address: <http://editorresources.taylorandfrancisgroup.com/reviewers-guidelines-and-best-practice/> ↩