

Supplementary File three: Table of CASP appraisal of studies

| Article and date | Bacchus 2016 | Donovan 2006 | Frierson 2014 | Hines 2010 | Hogan 2016 | Machado 2017 | McCarrick 2016 | Morgan 2014 | Morgan 2016 | Simmons 2017 | Tsui 2010 | Valentine 2013 |
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| Was there a clear statement of the research aims? | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES but quite broad | YES | YES the needs | YES |
| Is a qualitative methodology appropriate? | YES Study is mixed method but with distinct qualitative data presented within it | YES | YES | Not sure This study comprised mostly quantitative survey with a tiny amount of qualitative data | YES PhD so primary work based on comprehensive literature basis | YES demographics were collected followed by semi-structured questionnaires | YES with strong rationale given for its value | YES Survey & Interviews | YES Did not ask for demographics except length of relationship /time since relationship | YES | YES | YES |
| Was the research design appropriate to address the aims of the research? | YES Design was innovative mixed method but suitable in my opinion | YES Mixed method but data from different groups of people mixed together so difficult to extract for this study in a useful way | YES | YES | YES Design described & discussed in detail | YES It was specifically focused on Portuguese men – mixed method | YES possibly they could have performed interviews as webchat to make more anonymous IPA–yes, to fit the aims and get in depth insight into male experience | YES | YES No explanation of why not asking for demographics – may have influenced answers if all gay men , all white men etc | YES PARTLY Some concerns that they felt had saturation at nine interviews | YES In theory, but not in practice, if the authors wanted male views, as a lot of sample was from women (service providers). | YES Interview guide from SR data. |

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| <p>Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research?</p> | <p>Not sure It was a selected sample</p> | <p>YES no much detail though</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES "ten Portuguese male victims of IPV in heterosexual relationships who had sought formal help from DV agencies (i.e., victim support agencies)"</p> | <p>Not sure Recruitment was through one agency although participant were UK wide</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>Not sure participants were recruited via support groups authors suggest this adds potential bias</p> | <p>YES but for our purposes the population was a mix of abuse victims including childhood sexual abuse</p> | <p>No They start off wanting to explore men's experiences of service provision (or lack of it) but only 6% of their sample is completed by male victims, majority from service providers (who were mainly women). statement: "IPV male victims were the target of discussion and these victims may be clients, the participants themselves, family members, or friends</p> | <p>YES Gay men recruited from HIV clinics</p> |
| <p>Were the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES offered face to face, skype or phone</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES - though I do wonder about potential bias from only having one open ended question for the interview. It may mean participants were not challenged</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>Not really, as male views on services provision only made 6% of the sample reviewer although follow in-depth interviews would be useful</p> | <p>YES although the primary purpose of the study (enhance understanding of PA in a sample of same sex men with HIV) was slightly different from the aim of the secondary analysis (explore ways in which these men find meaning following PA) presented in this paper. Both aims seem rather vague to me.</p> |

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| Has the relationship between researcher and participants been adequately considered? | YES at least in part To avoid interviewer bias, the researchers blinded to participant's survey responses and participants were informed of this before interview commenced. interviews were conducted by female researchers and male researchers may have elicited qualitatively different data. | NO | YES research conducted by AA gay man | NO | YES in detail | NO text mentioned that interviewer was female but that was all | NO Not really, especially gender issues | NO | YES top of p416 | NO | NO | NO |
| Have ethical issues been taken into consideration? | YES | NO | YES Only brief ref to ethics approval p 638. | YES | YES | NO | NO no description of ethical approval | YES | YES but not formally | YES | Can't Tell Whilst ethical permission not required there should be some discussion on confidentiality etc. | Yes (see Appendix A and ref to it)no description of ethical approval |
| Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous? | YES | Not sure data mixed up | YES | YES | YES | YES described well | YES though I didn't always find the data matched the thematic terms | YES | YES described well | YES | YES | YES |
| Is there a clear statement of findings? | YES | YES clear summary & recommendations | YES | YES | YES in text and in diagrams | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES though verbatim data is sketchy | YES |

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| Limitations | Innovative MM study authors are clear about their methods and motives | Whilst this publication has qualitative data because of aim of study the data presentation in mixed and partial. | Researcher was a gay black man although he acknowledged and discussed this Relatively small number of men Uncertain, if study truly achieved saturation of themes. Findings relevant to GP in the UK. | very few primary quotes. Lots of thoughts based around previous literature | predominantly white working class males time scale of experiences were up to just less than 15yrs mean ~4yrs Slight question over 'self-identified' victim status | men were only recruited from one source. (DV services) all were of the same ethnicity | Participants were talking about past relationships (one was 10yrs ago). recruited through one agency no demographic information on men | Relatively small number of men disclosing experience of perpetration of abusive behaviors and seeking help. Therefore uncertain if study truly achieved saturation of themes. Relevant to general practice in the UK. | Already described above | | mixed population Lack of primary quotes Sample size small and they suggest saturation after nine interviews | It is difficult in this paper to determine first order concepts even though they are stand-alone statements – no indication who they are from and whether one person or many people Q was sent to organisations and mainly filled in by service provider |
| Reference to wider literature | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | | YES | YES |
| How valuable is the research? | Valuable as based in sexual health clinics and focusing on gay/bisexual men | Valuable. Theme of help seeking | Valuable as general practice based | Useful Some conclusion not supported but implied from the data. | Useful as specifically on the CJS | Portuguese specific research Novel discussion around balance of informal/formal help and usefulness of both highlights usefulness of psychological support | Useful as specifically on the CJS This paper offers an interesting counter argument to much research. Suggesting strongly, a movement away from traditional feminist views of IPV and towards a more gender-informed perspective. Talks about IPV being a human issue, not a gender issue.: | Valuable as general practice based | Valuable study on heterosexual men in abusive relationships | Valuable. Implications on how to engage minority ethnic gay men who (according to this paper) are reluctant to seek help for the abuse they were experiencing. The fear of having to disclose their sexual orientation as well as a desire to receive services from members of their racial community | Very useful as it does identify key themes emerging from male patients disclosing abuse | Useful qualitative work on service provision to male victims Main criticism is that it is not clear who the verbatim data is from- (service provider/male victim/friend of victim). Also some themes not properly explained/defined -for example, stigma theme doesn't really make sense, more explanation needed. Perhaps other papers will fill this gap? |

