

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Paediatrics Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Child homicide perpetrators worldwide – a systematic review
AUTHORS	Stöckl, Heidi; Dekel, Bianca; Gehring, Alison; Watts, Charlotte; Abrahams, Naeemah

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Temrin, Hans Ethology/Department of Zoology, Stockholm university, Sweden Competing interests: None
REVIEW RETURNED	13-Jun-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	I think the manuscript fills a gap of knowledge having a worldwide perspective on child homicide. The manuscript is interesting and ambitious.
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REVIEWER	Mathews, Shanaaz University of Cape Town South Africa Competing interests: None to declare
REVIEW RETURNED	21-Jun-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The use of an algorithm to develop a single estimate for a country requires more detailed explanation to understand the assumptions made by the researchers and whether the estimates presented is trustworthy.</p> <p>In the results on page 8 the authors note in the first paragraph that data on parental homicide was available for 32 countries, while in the 3rd paragraph in the opening line they note that data from 33 countries distinguished the perpetrators of parental homicide - can the authors please clarify the correct number of countries.</p> <p>The categorisation of perpetrators were : parents; another family member; acquaintance; stranger and unknown. Where the perpetrator is the mothers partner (cohabiting or casual) it is unclear where this group would fall under as this is a common group of perpetrators in South Africa. They would not ordinarily be considered a step father ?</p> <p>Omission of care or deliberate neglect can also result in a child's death and very poorly recorded in routine surveillance data sources. The authors acknowledge data gaps and under-reporting and SID's deaths but omission of care requires some discussion as it is a tricky area that contributes the burden of child deaths but seldom recognised as homicide</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Response of editor's and reviewer's comments Child homicide perpetrators worldwide – a systematic review

FORMATTING AMENDMENTS (if any)

Required amendments will be listed here; please include these changes in your revised version:

1. Supplementary File

Please convert and upload the Supplementary Files/Appendices into PDF file format. Please upload under the file designation "Supplementary File."

We have converted the supplementary file into Pdf and uploaded it.

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 1

I think the manuscript fills a gap of knowledge having a worldwide perspective on child homicide. The manuscript is interesting and ambitious.

Thank you for your positive feedback.

Reviewer: 2

The use of an algorithm to develop a single estimate for a country requires more detailed explanation to understand the assumptions made by the researchers and whether the estimates presented is trustworthy.

We have now added a reasoning for our assumption beyond each part of the algorithm.

In the results on page 8 the authors note in the first paragraph that data on parental homicide was available for 32 countries, while in the 3rd paragraph in the opening line they note that data from 33 countries distinguished the perpetrators of parental homicide - can the authors please clarify the correct number of countries.

There were 33 countries that had data on parental homicides that looked at the proportion of homicides committed by mothers versus fathers among parental homicides. This has been clarified in the text.

The categorisation of perpetrators were: parents; another family member; acquaintance; stranger and unknown. Where the perpetrator is the mothers partner (cohabiting or casual) it is unclear where this group would fall under as this is a common group of perpetrators in South Africa. They would not ordinarily be considered a step father?

We have categorized mother's partners as acquaintance as there was not sufficient detail in the description of the perpetrator named mothers boyfriends, mothers new partner or mothers lover across those few countries that listed it as a separate category to understand whether they were actually more family members as they lived with the mother and child(ren) in one household or whether they were very casual partners of the mother, who rarely visited. We have acknowledged this as a shortcoming in the discussion regarding the need for clear categories and the difficult of categorization.

Omission of care or deliberate neglect can also result in a child's death and very poorly recorded in routine surveillance data sources. The authors acknowledge data gaps and under-reporting and SID's deaths but omission of care requires some discussion as it is a tricky area that contributes the burden of child deaths but seldom recognised as homicide

This is a very important point that has only been mentioned shortly due to space constraints. We have now expanded on it in the discussion section.

Editor's Comments to Author:

1. **abstract -delete "Contrary to common perceptions"**
Done
2. **round up % to whole numbers or one decimal point only.**
Done
3. **What this study adds: delete "Contrary to common perceptions" from the 1st sentence.**
Deleted.
4. **Delete the last statement from this section as it is an opinion.**
Deleted
5. **Discussion - avoid use of "Contrary to common perceptions". You use it at the start and at the end. Most health professionals know this already. I think you are trying to make the point that the media portrays the risk differently. Why not say so?**
Thank you, we have changed this.