Reviewer's report

Title: Fatal poisonings in Oslo: A one-year observational study

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2010

Reviewer: Kent Olson

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions: None

Minor essential revisions:

1. Page 5 (Methods): Does the Institute for Forensic Medicine examine all deaths in Oslo due to poisoning? Are there other agencies, eg the police or medical examiner that may have additional data?

2. Page 5 (Methods): Please clarify --- was this a prospective observational study with a standardized data collection form, or did you retrospectively review charts?

3. Page 7, paragraph 2: Who was “the physician” who made the determination as to the toxic agent responsible for the death? Did the physician have any special expertise in toxicology, or were they simply the treating physician at the hospital?

4. Page 15, paragraph 1: I don’t understand what you are trying to say --- is the suicide rate being over-estimated or under-estimated?

Discretionary revisions: None

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