Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatial Distribution of Suicide in Queensland, Australia

Version: 1  Date: 15 August 2010

Reviewer: Olav Neilssen

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Qi and associates have conducted a study of the regional variations in official suicide statistics in the state of Queensland, Australia that is of considerable interest to both suicide researchers and mental health policy makers. The paper requires some general introductory remarks setting the context for the study, for example, a description of the population, area and social make up of Queensland.

The paper should mention that the study was conducted at a time of dramatic decline in suicide in Australia and Queensland due to the reduced availability of some lethal means and sustained economic prosperity for most sections of society (Large et al, 2010).

One of the limitations in the analysis is that even combining areas does not produce enough incidents to show significant differences. A further combination of neighbouring LGAs would seem warranted. Moreover, the study was unable to show whether the clusters were related events that took place soon within a short space of time and were linked by suggestion, or were evenly spaced over time and location within high risk communities.

A final criticism of the article is in the expression, which makes it difficult to read and creates some errors. For example, in the abstract, other six should be six other. The paragraph on page three beginning Spatial Cluster Analysis needs to be rewritten for clarity. There are too many abbreviations, some of which are not necessary as they are only used a few times. The paper would benefit from revision by a specialist editor.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests