Reviewer's report

Title: Spatial Distribution of Suicide in Queensland, Australia

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2010

Reviewer: Lei Yan

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this manuscript. I found it to be well written and other than a few areas needing clarification. I have the following questions and comments:

Questions (Major Compulsory Revisions):
1. Page 4, line 16: It is stated that there were 496 suicides on average each year from 1999 to 2003. But in line 10, “this study involved 2,445 suicide deaths from 1999 to 2003”. Was there any change in surveillance during this same time frame?
2. Page 6, the part of spatial analysis, please states the model which you selected and why you defined the spatial size as less than 25% of population? What is your reference for the RR in each LGA?
3. Page 10, as you mentioned, spatial cluster size was less than 25% population. How did you avoid the LGAs in SEQ which can not be selected in the clusters? There are 65.4% populations and 62.4% suicides in Queensland.
4. Figures: the number of the figures in pdf did not follow the name in manuscript.

Comments (Minor Essential Revisions):
1. Spatial cluster size: you can try to use different cluster sizes, not only less than 25% of population. May be, the result will be different and some areas can be covered.
2. Study units: In order to avoid excluding the areas with high population or high suicides from the clusters, can you use two methods to define the unit? For example, in the high population density area, the SLA can be used as the unit.
3. Results: Your previous study (Preliminary spatiotemporal analysis of the association between socio-environmental factors and suicide, Tab.2) gave very useful information on the characteristics of suicide mortality, demographic and social-economic. I think, these information are still useful for this study. (You have discussed them in page 12 of this study.)
4. Discussion: The advantage of spatial cluster analysis should be discussed.

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

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