Reviewer's report

Title: Mental disorders, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 4 July 2008

Reviewer: Dorte Hechksher

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

Paragraph: ‘Background’
The review focuses on: mental disorders, substance use, deliberate self-harm, suicidal ideation, and suicide in relation to LGB people. A reason for choosing these parameters would strengthen the ‘Background’ and ‘Objective’ paragraph. E.g. have these parameters been included in other reviews? etc.

Paragraph: ‘Study characteristics’, ‘Population’ and ‘Definition of sexuality’
Are there any considerations as to why so relatively few studies live up to the inclusion criteria? These considerations would strengthen the manuscript.
Do the applied sampling methods in the different studies influence on the quality of the presented data?

Paragraph: Discussion
Any explanation as to why LB seems more vulnerable when it comes to incidence of suicide, as well as experiencing higher risk of drug and alcohol dependence?

Minor Essential Revisions:

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Paragraph: ‘Discussion’
Are the results of this review comparable to results from other review-articles?
Does the result support or challenge these results?

Paragraph: ‘Strengths and limitations of the study’
To recruit people from minorities can, as the authors point out, be difficult, and it would be useful with some considerations as to which extend there could be hidden figures (e.g. a larger number of LGB people) in the population based studies and in which way this might influence the conclusions of the review.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests