Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Morten Hesse

Reviewer's report:

General:
The article reviews the literature on the psychiatric morbidity of people with same sex attraction and behaviour.

Minor essential Revisions
The authors should provide a more thorough introduction to the subject. In the very brief background provided, we are given a very limited justification for the study, referring to stigmatization, but nothing is said of the possible public health or clinical implications of high or low psychopathology in homosexuals or bisexuals. Also, the authors ask about "a valid definition" of homosexuality and bisexuality. But what is a valid or an invalid definition of homosexuality in the authors' view, and how have they chosen the definitions suggested?

The authors should do a better job of developing the possible conceptual links between sexual orientation and psychopathology. In the abstract, being LGB is mentioned as an "exposure", but how do the authors conceptualize LGB attraction and behaviour? May LGB in some people be a coping strategy, for instance a way of coping with being sexually traumatized at some point in life? May LGB be influenced by genetic or intrauterine factors, and may such factors also be related to disposition for psychopathology?

Similarly, in the discussion, the authors should elaborate on the points made, and discuss other hypotheses - maybe the ones that I have suggested, but surely, from experts in the field there are likely to be other suggestions.

They should also give some indication of future directions for research and, if any, clinical or public health implications.

Discretionary Revisions
In the sub-paragraph "Quality of studies reviewed" under methods, the abbreviations "LB og GB people" are used twice, but they are only explained much later in the text.

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