Reviewer's report

Title: Accentuation of suicides but not homicides with rising latitudes of Greenland in the sunny months

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2009

Reviewer: Ian Treasaden

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting study on the accentuation of suicides with rising latitudes in Greenland in the summer months. The research questions raised are well defined. The methods used are appropriate and well described, and the data appears sound. The title and abstract accurately convey what was found.

The background provides an excellent and particularly useful summary of the literature on the effects of seasonality in suicide and homicide, and also on the relationship of serotonin, impulsivity and violence, and also on alcohol consumption and suicide. Additional references as to the relationship between alcohol consumption and homicide might have usefully also been included.

The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and appropriately supported by the data. There might have been more discussion of the reasons behind the changes over time in suicide and homicide rates and the relationship to alcohol consumption, although this is not central to the relationship of suicide and homicide to latitude and summer months, though the latter may presumably increase the vulnerability to suicide if not homicide at any particular time.

No major compulsory revisions required.

No minor essential revisions required.

Discretionary revisions:
1. Page 4, 1st Para: Evidence that homicides are exclusively impulsive ought to be sited.
2. Page 4, 2nd Para, 3 lines up from bottom: It should presumably read "an" (rather than "and") "absence of seasonal variation", and in the same sentence "from places more distant".
3. Page 6, 1st Para: This might better read ".... alcohol related suicides have not been carefully studied".
4. Page 7, 2nd Para: Presumably the bracket after 2002 should be dropped.
5. Page 14, 1st Para of discussion, 7th line down: This should presumably read a diagnosis of psychosis not otherwise specified. Similarly in the 3rd Para, 1st Line,: The meaning of "more years" needs to be clarified. Does it mean of longer duration?
6. Page 15, 3rd Para: Presumably it should read "as shown by Lynge". Also in
this paragraph is the tradition of expressing feelings a reference to the Inuit rather than the population of Greenland as a whole.

**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.