Reviewer's report

Title: Internet-based Self-Assessment as Valuable Monitoring for Public Mental Health

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2009

Reviewer: Minna Johanna Anttila

Reviewer's report:

The study and its results give useful information about the outreach and usefulness of an internet-based self screening instrument specially among individuals who are at risk for mental disorders.

There are a few comments:

1. It is said in Abstract that we compared residents with all other users not living in Switzerland. That comparison is not seen in results. MAJOR COMP. REV.

2. It says in page 7 that users were asked to answer 7 questions concerning their exposure to the disaster. What were those 7 questions? Further, there are 8 groups in table 1. How they were formed into 5 groups as it is in table 2? MAJOR COMP. REV.

3. It is said in page 8 that users obtained a screening result which advised to contact general health practitioners for future assessment. An example of a screening result and an advice received could be illustrative. DISCRETIONARY REV.

4. Percentages in the first paragraph in the page 11 differ from the ones in table 1 and 2. MINOR ESS. REV.

5. ONSET was available for a period of 6 months. However, it is recommended to use one month after disaster. This could have been considered in results and included in discussion. MINOR ESS. REV.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'