Reviewer's report

**Title:** Suicide in the Philippines: time trends analysis of 30-year incidence and a systematic review of suicide behaviours

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 18 April 2011

**Reviewer:** Martin Voracek

**Reviewer's report:**

There is not much to quibble with this research report - very clearly written, informative, and a timely contribution. Good to have thorough suicidological evidence (both epidemiologic data, including time trends in suicide rates, and a systematic review) from this nation and world region.

Suggestions offered:

Please elaborate a little bit on the last sentence of the Introduction (i.e., how precisely "by presenting more data on the problem, better informed decisions could be made by stakeholders concerning priorities for suicide prevention in the Philippines").

Figure 1: according to this figure, male and female suicide rates have more or less closely moved in tandem up to the mid-1990s; however, then the pattern changes (marked increase in male, but not female, suicide rates). This is interesting in itself. Any explanations for or speculation regarding that changing pattern?

In similar vein, RE Figure 3: please comment more on the specific age profile of completed suicides. Youth and adolescent suicides (15-24 yrs. olds) figure prominently in the Philippines, and even more so in recent years (2000s vs. 1990s or earlier) and in young women than in young men.

**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.