Author's response to reviews

Title: Explaining gender differences in non-fatal suicidal behaviour among adolescents: a population-based study

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Version: 3 Date: 27 July 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editorial team,

Thank you very much for the comments and suggestions on our manuscript and the possibility to revise our work and resubmit it to BMC Public Health. In the following letter we will now include a point-by-point description of all changes we made:

**Comments of the editorial team and changes in the manuscript:**
The editorial team asked to write each affiliation in full, in the following format: Department, Institute, (Street), City, (Postal code), Country. This was done accordingly. Additionally, one more affiliation (Orygen Youth Health Research Centre) was inserted for the corresponding author (Michael Kaess) because of a change of work place during the last weeks (see title page).

The email-address of the corresponding author (Michael Kaess) was changed into his new address at the University of Melbourne (see title page).

In the authors’ contribution section we indicated that all authors read and approved the final manuscript (see p. 12, authors’ contributions section, line 5 and 6).

All highlighting and tracking was removed from the manuscript.

**Corrections done by the authors after final review:**
While correcting the manuscript, we changed the sentence “…could be found in adolescent girls than in adolescent males…” to “…could be found in girls than in boys…” (see p. 7, discussion section, line 5).

One paragraph had to be removed as it had been redundant and comprised a repetition of the information in the previous paragraph which must have occurred during the first revision. Therefore, the whole paragraph “Additionally, in case of problems, females tend more to communicating and help-seeking behaviours but also often show ruminative thinking and increased attention to these problems which consequently can lead to an impairment of their mental state and therefore is seen to be a cause for gender differences especially in internalizing problems by some authors [2]…” was removed from the manuscript (see p. 9, second paragraph) as this is also written in the paragraph before.

The sentence “different occurrences and extents of emotional and behavioural problems in females and males might explain these differences…” was changed to “different occurrences and extents of emotional and behavioural problems in females and males might explain the gender differences in suicidal behaviour…” because we found that it was not clear enough what kind of differences were meant by “these” (see p. 11, conclusions section, 2nd paragraph).

**Comments of reviewer 3 and corresponding answers and changes in the manuscript:**
The word “also” was moved to after “…suicidal behaviour is…” according to the suggestion of reviewer 3 (see p. 2, 2nd line).

Reviewer 3 suggested inserting the word “have” after “…many epidemiological studies so far...”. This was done accordingly (see p. 3, line 23).
She also suggested changing “psychopathological behaviour” to say “psychopathological behaviours”. This was also done accordingly (see p. 3, 2nd last line).

We also changed the sentence saying “…there is only little empirical research about the reasons…” to say “…there is only little empirical research which investigated the reasons…” according to reviewer 3 (see p. 4, 1st line).

The word “self-report scale” was changed to “self-report questionnaire” (see p. 5, assessment section, line 16)

The word “und” was changed to “and” (see p. 7, 2nd paragraph, line 8).

The word “usually” was removed (see p. 8, line 16).

A “to” was inserted between the words “likely” and “show” (see p. 8, line 17).

The word “are” was replaced by “may be” in the sentence “…girls may be more likely to exhibit suicidal behaviour because they suffer from a higher rate of emotional and behavioural problems during adolescence…”. This was according to reviewer 3 who suggested that this sentence could be toned down slightly (see p. 10, 2nd paragraph, line 4).

The word “been” after “…girls could also have…” was removed (see p. 10, 3rd paragraph, line 10).

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any further enquiries. We are looking forward to the publication of our manuscript in BMC Public Health.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Kaess