Reviewer's report

Title: Determination of the social risk factors related to suicide attempts in Iran: A meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 7 August 2012

Reviewer: Seena Fazel

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Major Compulsory Revisions

My main concerns relate to the scope of the paper. I am not convinced that an international readership would be interested in one set of risk factors in relation to one country. This is not sufficiently justified in my view. Is Iran a special case or does it share features with many low income countries or middle eastern countries. Furthermore, the isolation of one set of risk factors need more justification.

The language is imprecise and there are many errors.

I see that the I squared statistics presented were all over 80%, and mostly over 95% and therefore the authors should consider presenting ranges rather than summary prevalences.

The number of factors included in the metaregression is too limited considering the various possible explanations for the heterogeneity. Justification for the included variables should be included.

The graphs are difficult to interpret.

Can an explanation for the differences presented simply be due to reporting biases?

The results of the multivariate metaregression seem odd to me. The univariate findings change for the first two factors dramatically from circa 0.4-0.5 to less than 0.05.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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