Reviewer’s report

Title: Suicide and Related Health Risk Behaviours among School Learners in South Africa: Results from the 2002 and 2008 national Youth Risk Behaviour Surveys

Version: 2 Date: 18 July 2013

Reviewer: Amy James

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to commend the authors for making this article cleaner and more focused. The thoughtful responses to reviewer comments were also appreciated. My only minor essential revision is that the term "coloured" is not defined. In most parts of the world, this population would be described as "mixed race," "biracial" or "multiracial," therefore, a definition is needed for an international readership to understand how this population is different from Black or White.

The discretionary revision is related and would have been included in the initial review but I missed it the first time around. In the US, YRBS data is always evaluated by racial/ethnic category as there are differences found among racial/ethnic groups. I did not realize that the while racial categories were part of the demographic data collected and described, they were not part of the analysis. Particularly because the 2008 data represents the first post-apartheid student cohort, it may be very important to include race as you make recommendations regarding targeting efforts for suicide prevention. Please consider taking a look at this very important variable.

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