Reviewer's report

Title: Loneliness and health risk behaviours among Russian and U.S. adolescents: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Paula Nunes

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Title: Loneliness and health risk behaviours among Russian and U.S. adolescents: a cross-sectional study

Overview:
This paper aims to fill the gap in the literature on the relationship between loneliness and adolescent health risk behaviour. The title of the paper suggests that a secondary aim was to compare the findings between Russian and U.S adolescents. If so, then there is a need to further describe the differences between the two countries being compared. There is evidence that the authors attempted to be consistent in their methodology as applied at the two sites (Russia and US) however, there are some concerns about the write up of the analysis and discussion that need to be addressed.

Specific comments: The question posed was well defined.

Major compulsory revisions
1. Methods: This section could be made clearer by addressing the following:
   a. When was the study period?
   b. How was the survey instrument administered? - teacher, trained research assistant, self-administered?
   c. How were issues of confidentiality addressed?
   d. Consider placing the measures in an appendix rather than including in the body of the paper. What was the validity and reliability of the scales used in these populations?
   e. In the section on Statistical Analysis there is some confusion in the line ‘In Model 3,…’ please clarify if the depressive symptoms variable was added to those variable used in Model 2, and whether the loneliness variable was removed or retained.? According to the response to this question the results and discussion would have to be adjusted.

2. Results (see above)

3. Discussions: The paper would benefit from discussing the results in more
depth,
for example, concerning violence: - Are there any suggestions as to why the findings differed from expected? Why the similarity to findings from Bangkok? How do the adolescents from Russia and US compare? How are the findings of depressive symptoms and loneliness inter-related?

4. Limitations: The authors describe "children’s self-report "as a potential limitation,
please elaborate if the limitation is the use of a self-reporting scale or because of the age of the participants or both? Also I would remove the word “children."

Minor essential revisions:
The authors can be trusted to make these. Ensure consistency in documentation for example
a. in study population (last line of last paragraph), either response rate or refusal rate,
b. in results (2nd paragraph) confidence intervals missing for respective odds ratios.

Level of interest: This article is important to those with similar research interests and adds to the data of health risk behaviour in adolescents.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests