Reviewer's report

Title: Seasonal patterns of suicides over the period of socio-economic transition in Lithuania

Version: 2 Date: 19 December 2005

Reviewer: Timo Partonen

Reviewer's report:

General

The manuscript has improved clearly. It gives interesting data and is easy to read.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

There are still some points that need amendment as follows.
1. Abstract, Results. It says "July peak -29% in women", whereas it should say "July peak exceeded 29% in women". Please correct.
2. Abstract, Conclusions. It says "Substantial seasonal variations in suicides might be associated with huge proportions of hanging". In fact, the association is a clear one, so the authors may say something like "Substantial seasonal variations in suicides were associated with a high proportion of hanging" or "Substantial seasonal variations in suicides were due to those with hanging". Please rewrite.
3. Page 6, line 1. It says "23.5-24.4%", whereas it should say "23.5-24.2%". Please correct.
4. Page 9, line 8. It says "shifts". Here, it is a question of differences rather than of shifts. The authors may say "fluctuations" here. Please reword.
5. Page 9, line 13. It says "Lithuanian case", whereas it should say "the Lithuanian dataset". Please correct.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The authors have added many new references to support the discussion. Please consider including the following ones in the discussion on page 10, lines 7 to 13 up.
- Maes et al 1995 (Arch Gen Psychiatry 52: 937-46).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.