Reviewer’s report
Title: The Impact of Fathers Physical and Psychosocial Work Conditions on Attempted and Completed Suicide Among their Children
Version: 3 Date: 15 February 2006
Reviewer: Cameron Stark

Reviewer’s report:
General
The authors have addressed the points made in the previous comments. I disagreed with another referee that p values needed to be added to the tables: the confidence intervals convey the same information and I would have used one or the other, with a preference for confidence intervals because of the additional information they convey. The editors may wish to consider whether both are necessary.

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

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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)

The term ‘father’s mental’ in some of the tables would be better replaced with the fuller form used in the earlier table to avoid any confusion.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

There was a difference of interpretation in relation to one comment: not all people who self-harm are admitted to hospitals or, indeed, any in-patient setting. This occurs either because the person does not present to services, or because hospital admission is not deemed to be required. It is therefore likely that the study will not have identified all episodes of self-harm. This is not a challenge that can be resolved, but it would be appropriate for the authors to consider stating it more clearly in the text.

There is felt to be no reason why cases and non-cases should migrate at different rates. In the UK, drift of people with mental illness to other areas, and to large urban areas, has been reported in the research literature. The authors seem to feel fairly strongly that there is no possibility of differential migration. I do not agree with this, although the full capture of cases elsewhere in British Columbia reduces this risk. The authors may wish to consider justifying their view more fully in the text.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

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