Reviewer’s report

Title: What makes people decide who to turn to when faced with a mental health problem? Results from a French survey

Version: 1 Date: 26 January 2007

Reviewer: David L Vogel

Reviewer’s report:

This study reported examined the rates at which participants (N = 412) would use different treatment options and examined several determinants of these decisions. This study focuses on an important topic that would be of interest to mental health professionals. Below are my suggestions for strengthening the manuscript.

Abstract

1. The sentence under the Background section states that determinants of “attitudes” are assessed. However, it seems that attitudes are not assessed but rather rates of use/compliance with different treatment options/sources of help.

Introduction

2. The introduction is generally well written. My main concern is that it is not fully clear from the introduction what is missing from the literature that this study adds to or builds on (i.e., why do we need this study). In the introduction the author(s) already state that we know many of the current findings (e.g., that the GP is the most frequent first contact). Similarly, how will the findings of the study enhance our ability to design education campaigns? Many of the factors studied such as biological sex and education level do not seem like something that could be changed through an educational campaign.

Methods

3. I was curious why participants who had a diagnosis were dropped. Wouldn’t their responses be most important?

4. As above, I am not sure that attitudes are being measured but rather willingness/intention to do something.

Statistical Analysis

5. The authors use the term “gender” but it may be more appropriate to use the term “sex” to refer to men and women and to gender when referring to behavior (i.e., gender roles).

6. I am not sure this section is necessary. It could be deleted or combined with the results.

Results

7. Question #1 and #3 seems very similar. Why would participants be more likely to see a GP first but when asked who they would see without the “first” in the question by almost equally split? I am also wondering if the difference found for question #1 has as much to do with health insurance as people’s true desires.

Discussion

8. The discussion is generally well written.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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