Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in mental health services and suicide mortality in Norway: an ecological study

Version: 4 Date: 28 December 2010

Reviewer: Kristian Wahlbeck

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to all of my previous comments.

Minor essential revisions
1. In table 1, rate ratio for outpatient consultations is 3.22, but in the Results section of the text (page 9) the corresponding number is 221 %.

2. Tables 3 and 4: abbreviation "IRR" needs to be explained.

3. Discussion section, page 11. The authors say "....the number of discharges increased by 113 %..., which can be explained by the decline in the number of inpatient days". This does not seem plausible, as both "beds" and "bed-days" decreased at the same rate. The increase in discharges must thus be due to a shorter average length of hospitalization periods.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.