Reviewer's report

Title: Variations in suicide method and occurrence by season and day of the week in Russia and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Northwestern Russia: a retrospective population-based mortality study

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Reviewer: Benjamin Vyssoki

Reviewer's report:

In general the manuscript is from scientific interest. However the manuscript would benefit a lot from restructuring, the authors tend to lose focus due to the variables and sub-groups, so it is not that easy to follow their thinking path through the manuscript without loosing it.

In the introduction the authors list how suicide methods vary between different countries. It seems to me that this in-detail description is not necessary here. Same for suicide and seasonality differences. I would advice to give the reader a general overview about suicide in indigenous people in this section and give more detailed information on the different variables in the Discussion-section.

Further it would be from interest to know why the specific variables were chosen? Why is a difference between groups regarding the day of suicide from interest? It is only later explained in the Discussion but a short explanation in the Methods section would be good.

The display of the results could be improved. In the results section, subsection suicide methods, the results are discussed in much detail which is confusing for the reader. The text here would benefit from restructuring and please only give the main results, for details tables.

If I understand correctly, age and martial status had no influence on suicide numbers? This is surprising! Do you have an explanation?

Minor points:

Page 8, line 174: month!

The first sentence of the introduction is somehow irritating, as it states that suicides are not only a health issue for indigenous people but also worldwide. It would be better the other way round “..worldwide and also in indigenous people...”. Please rephrase!

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

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