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

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 20 July 2015

**Reviewer:** Ute Lewitzka

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors investigated within a retrospective population-based mortality study differences in suicide rates and methods and associated these data with information about month and day of suicide. The included a special population (NAO=Nenets Autonomous Okrug) which is to be seen as novelty. No studies so far exist about this special topic.

I have only some minor point’s resp. questions:

1. Is there an obligation for the doctor who is involved in the approval of death to report suicide to the official intuitions within this territory as this is the case e.g. in Germany? If not it could be speculated that there is a higher number.

2. What is a possible explanation/hypothesis for the 2side peak within a year in this region compared to other countries? Are there special activities or believes in this ethnicity group which might have an influence?

3. It would be worth to insert a little paragraph about potential (and maybe different) protective factors within this population. What else is important to strengthen the suicide- prevention activities in this area?

4. Limitations of such a study could be elaborated a bit more (e.g. other influences etc.)

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests