Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatial clustering of fatal, and non-fatal, suicide in New South Wales, Australia: Implications for evidence-based prevention

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Sabrina Brown

Reviewer’s report:

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Spatial clustering of fatal, and non-fatal, suicide in New South Wales, Australia: Implications for evidence-based prevention

This is an important study as suicide is one of the top five leading causes of years of life lost prematurely among those aged 15-64 for more than a half a decade in Australia and has recently increased considerably.

This is also the only study that incorporates fatal and non-fatal cases, which contributes to the literature and has an important public health impact.

I have only minor edits and questions that may simply require further explanation.

Page 3 line 68: This is inaccurate, special epidemiology is used in many fields of injury prevention. I myself have used it beyond suicide prevention. Find and cite uses of spatial epidemiology in other countries as well.

Same page line 72: Studies cannot take any action; study personnel or researchers "do" the work. This also seems contradictory to my last comment where you say it's only used in suicide prevention and here it is used in "few."

Page 4 line 97: accounts for [THE] single largest

Page 10 line 237: I understand that the analysis revealed…but the last few paragraphs are starting to sound like SaTScan is a robot doing all of the work on its own as if human. Maybe change the word demonstrated to results indicated or something less human-like. That same page line 258 is a better way to work results..

Page 14 line 344: requires data which considers. This sounds like the data is doing the action and not a researcher. Maybe "data to include a way to measure temporal variation."
I think Table 1 should be labeled ERP and not ERA?

Figure 4: The Legend: rename LGA_Candidates_25 to something that is a little more descriptive or has less of the data set variable label.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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