Reviewer’s report

Title: Is involvement in school bullying associated with increased risk of murderous ideation and behaviours among adolescent students in China?

Version: 1 Date: 15 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Muyu Lin

Reviewer's report:

1. Page10 line24-32: I don't understand the purpose of the two examples providing here. If the authors want to state that juvenile crimes is prevalent, maybe it would be better to provide some data (e.g., prevalence of juvenile crime, school violence, etc.) instead of using two independent events where the murderers had already past age of 18 (especially these two events did not seem to be related to bullying)?

2. Page 12, line40-48: Hypothesis 2: Secondly, we further examined the physical or behavior change due to school bullying and their association with murderous ideation and behaviors, due to that previous studies showed factors like depression and poor sleep quality occurred more frequently after experienced certain types of school bullying. —— Maybe I have missed this, but I don't think the study measured any physical or behavior changes due to school bullying?

3. Similar to Reviewer 2, I am also surprised by the number "7.2%" of attempted murder. It would be better to have a real juvenile violence rate in similar area to compare with and interpret the data. Could it be any misunderstanding of the item (d) (Page 15 line 1-2) ? I think the author tried to access whether there was any "action of murder", but the item reads like any "trying" of murder would count (maybe overlapping with preparation or threaten)?

4. Statistical Analysis, page 17: I suggested adding more details of the statistical methods, e.g., what were the predictors of MLR, did authors conduct a set of MLR, or did several predictors enter the model together.

5. I agree with the reviewer#2, point 3, that it is very unlikely there will be a causal-consequence relationship between bullying and homicide. Since that the authors also discuss this in the limitation section, I further suggested the author to revise other interpretation in the discussion which hints such relationship. E.g. "(abstract/conclusion) Prevention towards school bullying might have an impact on reducing adolescent murder intention and behaviors." "(page22 line24-30) The study results indicating that involvement in school bullying ..., which may lead to murders if lack of interventions." Or (page25 line40-54) such implications are also questionable. etc.
6. Judged from the numbers reported in table 2-4, it seems that bullies and bully-victims has a stronger association with homicidality than pure-victims? Maybe this could be an interesting point to discuss?

7. Please proofread the article to enhance the readability.

**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.

Yes

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal