Reviewer's report

Title: Does parental monitoring moderate the relationship between bullying and adolescent nonsuicidal self-injury and suicidal behavior? A community-based self-report study of adolescents in Germany

Version: 1
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Reviewer: Nadine Melhem

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript examines the relationship between bullying and adolescent non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and suicidal behavior (SB) and the role of parental monitoring as a moderator of this relationship in a sample of 647 students aged between 9 and 18 years in Germany. This is an important question to address to examine protective factors that can buffer the impact of bullying and help school-based programs to develop better prevention strategies.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors find that social bullying may be a triggering factor for both NSSI and SB, whereas cyber bullying is more relevant to NSSI. However, the manuscript does not examine the correlations between the different types of bullying and whether children were exposed to more than one form of bullying. Children exposed to bullying are probably more likely to be exposed to more than one type and previous studies show that victims of multiple types of bullying are more troubled than those exposed to one type. The authors emphasize the frequency of bullying when they can address both frequency and exposure to multiple types of bullying.

2. It is not clear whether the regression analyses control for any covariates. Age and/or grade are covariates that should be included given that bullying frequency was found to change between grades. In addition, the manuscript is not clear on the sampling strategy and how observations are correlated and if multiple subjects are drawn from the same school and grades. It is not clear whether these correlations are taken into account.

3. It is also not clear whether authors have collected data about parental history of psychopathology. Lack of parental monitoring could be due to parental psychopathology, which puts children at increased risk for exposure to bullying, NSSI, and SB.

3. In the manuscript, the authors refer to the “incidence” of bullying when they are studying prevalence or 12-month prevalence. Prevalence and incidence should not be used interchangeably.

Minor Essential Revisions
4. Figure 1 does not directly convey the results. The authors should consider presenting the data in the form of a histogram for the relationship between bullying and NSSI and SB stratified by parental monitoring (as a categorical variable based on a cut-off).

5. Tables should include the total Ns in each category.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests