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

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Reviewer: Julie Phillips

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Review: 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

This paper is clearly written and concerns an important topic, namely whether parental monitoring can mitigate the harmful effects of bullying on adolescent NSSI and suicidal behavior. The statistical analysis is appropriately conducted and straightforward. I have the following suggestions for improvement.

The biggest limitation to the study is that it cannot make statements about causality given the cross-sectional nature of the data. This would appear to be a major research priority in this field of study and addressed should additional waves of the data set become available. The authors are appropriately cautious about this issue in the limitations section, but it’s such a critical issue that it merits mention upfront as well. For example, I was wondering about the research designs of studies mentioned on p. 4 that show that bullying is a factor in the development of severe emotional and behavioral problems. It is written in such a way to suggest that the studies were able to rule out effectively the possibility of endogeneity – that those with severe emotional problems are more likely to be bullied.

It would be useful to include a clear definition of NSSI early on in the paper, along with some examples. I presume this would include cutting, among other behaviors?

The authors suggest that a major contribution of the present study is to examine relationships by type of bullying. It would be useful to include a paragraph in the background developing some theoretical arguments for why we might expect the relationships to differ on this basis. Furthermore, I don’t believe the authors examined whether the possible buffering effect of parental monitoring might differ by type of bullying. Is this because of small sample sizes?

Can the authors comment on the accuracy of self-reports of bullying by children? Do studies reveal that they tend to be accurate and is it possible to include other more objective measures? It is mentioned as a limitation, but I would like more detail. Can the authors add a sentence or two describing how results may differ when both subjective and objective measures are used?
Is it possible to include other controls in the models? At a minimum, it would seem important to explore whether the associations differ by gender and age. The authors test for gender and grade differences in the univariate distributions but don’t address the issue in the regression models. Possible differences by gender should be theorized and explored, particularly since prior work has found gender differences in some of these relationships.

**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.