Reviewer’s report

Title: Socioeconomic inequalities in suicide mortality before and after the economic recession in Spain

Version: 1 Date: 02 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Svanhild Hansen

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

This was a very interesting research study, and particularly important to our scientific community with respect to broaden our awareness on suicide and societal/environmental factors that can affect it. I have made a few suggestions on how to improve the article with respect to writing, and a few comments on content.

On Page 2, in your abstract, you wrote "the economic recession within two Spanish settings." I would recommend changing this to "the economic recession within two geographical settings in Spain."

On page 3, in your introduction, you wrote, "Suicide is one of the most important causes of premature mortality, as it mainly affects the young population." - this is not an accurate statement, as suicide is not an important cause,- it is rather a large and recurring cause. I would change this to "Suicide is a recurring cause of premature mortality, particularly among young individuals in the population."

In the next paragraph, you start the sentence with "evidence shows." Unless you are going to refer to the evidence more in detail, I would refrain from writing that. Instead, you might want to say, "It has been well established through previous studies…"

In the last paragraph on page 3, you wrote, "there is still an insufficient number of studies looking at the link…” This is not a good phrasing, as "insufficient" is not the right wording to use in the context when trying to say that there are few studies on the topic. I would change this to "there is insufficient information regarding the link..."

On page 4, in the methods section, you write that the Basque country is an autonomous community. What do you mean by this? I would expand a bit.

In the next paragraph, when you refer to the ICD-10 codes, I would write out what they stand for.
On page 5, I would change the dates of the start and ending of your research, it is enough to refer to the month.

In the last paragraph on page 5, you wrote "unemployment levels did not start to rise markedly until 2009." I would change markedly to noticeably.

On page 8, you start a sentence by saying that it is "worth mentioning." I would delete that comment, and start with "Models that included."

On page 8, you also wrote "RII were not different over time". I would change that to "RII did not change over time."

On page 8, in your discussion section, there are a few changes that I would like to recommend:
You wrote, "….but with educational level inequalities appearing mainly in men."  
I would change this to "…but with educational level inequalities mainly affecting men."
In the next paragraph, you wrote, "This study does not show an increase…." 
I would change that sentence to "This study did not find…"

On page 10, you wrote, "However, it is necessary to further monitor this mortality in the future because the economic recession could have more far-reaching longer-term effects." I would recommend changing the end of that sentence to "…could have greater long-term effects."

**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
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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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