Reviewer’s report

Title: Suicidal ideation and attempts in population-based samples of women: temporal changes between 1989 and 2015

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Reviewer: José Javier López-Goñi

Reviewer's report:

The study is part of a four-wave longitudinal population-based project initiated in 1986 that assesses the prevalence of self-reported suicidal ideation and attempts among women from the general population aged 20-49 years. Moreover, authors investigate associations between sociodemographic factors and suicidal ideation.

The goal of the study is very relevant. Suicidal behaviors research needs to integrate sociodemographic factors in theoretical models in order to adapt suicide prevention policies to social groups at risk because the effect of these factors may be modified through policies and public health interventions (Conejero et al., 2016).

Overall, the article is well written and the logic of the study is in accordance with the goal. The paper provides useful data, the main conclusions are consistent and the authors are aware of the limitations of the study. Hence I congratulate the authors for the work they are doing. Some considerations and suggestions are provided below about background, discussion and conclusions sections.

Background
It would be necessary to include a reflection on the meaning of the sociodemographic factors. The information obtained in this study is aimed at informing the design of new public health interventions. Therefore, the authors should highlight some ideas about the design of these interventions.

Discussion
The first two paragraphs of the discussion section do not discuss the implications of the findings in context of existing research. These paragraphs are an explanation of results, and the authors should replace them.
In the third paragraph, the authors do not discuss about the result that they have obtained (an increase of lifetime suicidal ideation). Comparisons are difficult (as authors state) but: 1) Would it be necessary to propose some interventions? 2) What is the meaning for public health? Moreover, the authors should consider these questions in the fourth (educational), fifth (current occupation) and sixth (relationship status) paragraphs.

Conclusions
It is true that no conclusions can be drawn about the mechanisms behind the changes in the association between sociodemographic factors and suicidal ideation over the time. But the authors should consider
the meaning of the findings for future preventive interventions in public health.

I hope these proposed modifications will serve to improve the manuscript.

**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:

Acceptable

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