Reviewer’s report

Title: The experiences of people bereaved by suicide regarding the press reporting of the death: qualitative study

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Reviewer: Karl Andriessen

Reviewer's report:

This interesting study reports on the subjective experiences of people bereaved by suicide who were confronted with media reports of the death. Overall, the methods and results were well described. A few questions and suggestions.

The introduction starts with a clear statement regarding potential harm related to media coverage of suicide. If I were a journalist, I stopped reading immediately. Couldn't you start by saying that, for example, media coverage of suicide offers opportunities to promote suicide prevention. Yet, current practices may entail a few problems. Or something along these lines. If you want to build a bridge to media professionals, I guess that the opening lines are crucial.

Authors stated that they followed COREQ guidelines. Hence, I was wondering about researcher reflexivity.

A few questions for the discussion. Anger is a frequent emotion in people bereaved by suicide. Is it possible that some participants projected their anger towards journalists because journalists were there on the wrong place or the wrong time, or that the presence of journalists triggered their aggression and frustrations? Could you make a difference between, for example, tabloids and so-called quality press? Or freelance journalists and 'real' journalists?

To improve media coverage, there is of course the strategy of educating media professionals and co-creation and promotion of guidelines. However, a first, yet unanswered question is how journalists perceive suicide-related stories: How do they approach the stories and what is important to them? It is unlikely that journalist will adhere to media guidelines that do not acknowledge their perspective.

Data collection occurred 9 years ago. Meanwhile, many things have happened regarding promotion of media guidelines, also in the UK. So, how valid are the study findings today?

Good luck with a revision!
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?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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