

Reviewer's report

Title: Preliminary Spatiotemporal Analysis of the Association between Socio-environmental Factors and Suicide

Version: 1 **Date:** 10 July 2009

Reviewer: Talar Sahsuvaroglu

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

In the background of the paper, there should be some general comments about Queensland, such as relevance or how it fits into the rest of the country, and to describe the different areas and their characterization so that the results can be understood in local context. The non-Australian reader is otherwise uninformed.

There is no information on the age of the study population, even though information was reported to be gathered in the Data Sources section. Some descriptions are necessary.

- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Abstract and last paragraph in the full paper:

“the planet is warming up” is almost colloquial and inappropriate – perhaps changing it to a more appropriate approach of the impacts of climate change.

P4 – 2nd paragraph – Connect the 1st two sentences better – as different temperatures imply different seasons – a smoother connection would be suggested.

P4 – last sentence of the 3rd paragraph – awkward insertion of the time range of the project.

P6 – 3rd line – met grid is awkwardly presented – 0.25 what?

P7 – 2nd paragraph in Data Analyses. Please remove reference to “we” as it is the only place it occurs.

P10 – univariable analysis. It may be a good place to compare women/men suicides before starting the bivariable analysis.

P10 – 2nd sentence after Bivariable analysis. PPLII and PPLEL have not yet been introduced.

P11 – sentence before {table 6 about here} should finish with ... “not significantly associated with suicide in females”

P13 – Major findings – this is a point at which the areas of Queensland are important for the readers to understand.

P13 – Comparison with other studies – the second sentence requires some scientific justification otherwise it sounds hypothetical.

P14. Last paragraph – this may include a discussion about environmental justice/equity.

P15 of the same paragraph as above. There is a lot of work done on suicide in Indigenous communities of Canada that may add to this discussion – some of which have to deal with harsh environmental and social conditions.

P15 – 2nd paragraph – similar to the comment for p14 – the last sentence seemed too hypothetical. Please back up with references.

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

Overall, the acronyms were quite un-intuitive, thus causing the reader to have to keep flipping back and forth to remember what SEIFA/PPELEL etc. Perhaps alternative labeling can be created?

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