Reviewed by: Ping Wu

Reviewing report:

Title: Prevalence and risk factors of alcohol and other substance use disorders in young adulthood: A population-based study

The manuscript used data from a population based survey in Finland.

Abstract:

The age range of the young adults is not clear. It is not clear if the age range of 21-35 is for the baseline or the follow-up survey.

The summary of results states that “The associations between behavioral and affective factors (attention or behavior problems at school, aggression, anxiousness) and SUD were largely independent of other risk factors,...” However, the findings from Model V of Table 4 do not really support this statement.

Background:

Page 5: “Parental SUD also predicts earlier onset of substance dependence in the offspring [23]. Parenting practices, however, moderate the relationships between parental and adolescent alcohol use and problems [24].” The second sentence is not relevant, as there is no measure of parenting practice reported in this paper.

Methods:

P. 8: In terms of selection bias due to missing data, the authors acknowledge that “Previous analyses indicated that attrition in both study phases was related to age, sex, and education, but not to self-reported mental health disorders or symptoms, including the CAGE scores [39].” However, results in tables 3 and 4 all indicated that missing information for the independent variables is significantly associated with substance abuse/dependence. For example, subjects with missing information about parental basic education were 14 times more likely to meet criteria for substance abuse/dependence than those whose parents had some high school, while subjects with parents with less than a high school...
education were only 3 times more likely to meet criteria for substance abuse/dependence than those with some high school. The authors need to discuss the significant odds ratios for the missing subjects and discuss their implications for the study results.

Measures: Please clarify, for all variables used in the paper, when the information was obtained, i.e., at baseline or follow-up?

Results:

The selection of risk factors and the decisions regarding the sequence in which variables were entered into each analysis are not well justified. It is not clear why the parental factors are considered to be a set of risk factors while age and gender are treated as covariates. It seems that since they are likely to be associated with both substance abuse/dependence and child behavioral & affective factors, these two sets of variables should both be controlled for in all the models.

The discussion of the results in Table 4 should be revised. All the ORs should be AOR (Adjusted Odds Ratio).

Table 4 should also be revised. All the ORs should be AOR (Adjusted Odds Ratio). Also, the title for the first column is not accurate, because the results are not from univariate analysis.

Discussion

P.17: last paragraph: “The findings that early initiation of drinking to intoxication was strongly associated with SUD was anticipated,……” This statement was not quite true from the results reported in Models III and V in Table 4.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.