Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol consumption in higher education students

Version: 1 Date: 25 April 2011

Reviewer: Kasonde Bowa

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Article: Alcohol consumption in higher education students
Reviewer: Prof Kasonde Bowa MSc,M.Med,FRCS,FACS,FCS
University of Zambia School of Medicine
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The study objectives need to be stated more precisely

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
These are. Except the tools need to be stated including their validity and reliability

3. Are the data sound?
Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes. However there are repetitive and need to be state but not overstated

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
The study limitations are mentioned

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

The article is well written and interesting. The abstract is clear and summarizes the key issues in the study. The background is well set out. However the study
Objective needs to be more clearly provided. The study design is good. Though focus groups discussion could have strengthened the study findings. The tools used probably needs to be indicate, especially in relation to their validity and reliability. The data analysis is good. The discussion rather lengthy and repetitive. The conclusion should probably be merged with the discussion. Some variation in the results presentation, use of pies, graphs rather than only tables.

These recommendation fall under the category of discretionary revision mostly.

**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