Reviewer’s report

Title: Alcohol consumption in higher education students

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Reviewer: Preben Bendtsen

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions.

The topic is an important one but the stipulated aim of getting more knowledge on how to design appropriate interventions for use in higher education settings is not really answered by the article in its present form. Too much emphasis and space is laid upon the alcohol habits of students compared to staff. This is not really new knowledge but more common knowledge. I suggest that the authors focus on what is new knowledge and important knowledge for designing interventions to students.

The relation between mental distress and alcohol habits is not really explored in details. Could further analysis be done in relation to age, sex and drinking habits?

The limitation of the convenient sample of 2% of the students is discussed but still represent a problem of generalization.

In the conclusions the authors find that the study supports the need for interventions that target misuse among students. This is not really a new knowledge but if the study could suggest means of reaching students this would have been in line with the aim. Instead the authors refer to work done in the US. Is there not any findings from the present study that could guide on how to design an intervention - in line with the aim of the study?

Just before the Conclusions - online interventions are mentioned with no reference to the work of Kyp Kypris whioch I find a little bit odd.

I suggest that the Authors focuses on data concerning; knowledge of guidelines and drinking status, help seeking wishes, mental distress (measured by the K 6) and alcohol use. Especially the last items K6 and alcohol habits could be explored more in the analysis.

By focusing on these issues the article could be much shorter and easier to read and get knew knowledge. As it is now the readers might loose interest due to the focus on students alcohol habits - that is not really new knowledge.

Minor Essential Revisions

Few references are made to earlier work in Australia byt Kyp Kypri - prevalence of risk drinking has been published by him as far as I know?
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have shares in my own company that develops computerized software for lifestyle interventions including alcohol, to students and the general population. However, I do not see any competing interest with this paper and my company.