Reviewer's report

**Title:** Parental alcohol use and adolescent school adjustment in the general population: results from the HUNT study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 6 April 2011

**Reviewer:** Christelle Roustit

**Reviewer's report:**

This study examines the association between parental alcohol use and school adjustment in adolescents, and assesses the role of different dimensions such as parental psychopathology or social network as potential confounding or mediating factors in explaining this association. The authors conducted secondary analyses of data from the 1997 Hunt survey, using polychoric correlation and logistic regression.

**Strengths of the Manuscript:**

This study uses survey data from a large cluster random sample of adolescents and their parents, using multi-informants data collection, particularly from both parents in general population. Such data are scarce and even if the findings are based on 1997 survey, one can think that the model through which adolescents interact with their familial environment has not changed over time to a degree where the paper's findings have limited relevance. This study further attempts to find paths from parental alcohol abuse and school adjustment with relevance in an ecological perspective. The methodology is clearly stated.

**Weaknesses of the Manuscript:**

**Major comments.**

The authors used data without to be guided by a theoretical model from which hypothesis can be build. It's why the introduction is mainly centered on the limitations of other studies to give arguments for the present research. The literature review is based on the rationale of each variable available in the data base and not on a comprehensive model. Therefore, the discussion has not a guiding thread even if the findings could be interesting. The total lenght of the manuscript is 5196 words and must be reduced on the basis of main ideas for a clearer reading.

**Minor comments.** The explanations of the methodology must be also reduced. Odds ratio would be more appropriate to describe the associations on this topic.

**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