Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol drinking patterns among high school students in Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 14 January 2012

Reviewer: Mei-Yu Yeh

Reviewer's report:

This study examines the prevalence and factors associated with alcohol use among high school students in eastern Ethiopia.

There are some limitations in background, methodology, analyses and interpretation of results.

First, the Background section, no specific hypotheses are proposed based on an integrated model of the variables. At the very least, a clearer description of Ethiopia cultural issues in the manuscript and these notions might guide hypothesis generation. I was felt more confused by the literature based upon how the background was written than being assisted in understanding what we know and what this study might add to the field.

Second, the Method section is inadequate, pre-testing and the proportional stratified sampling lack of detail descriptions. How exactly did data collection and by what proportion and stratification? Why choice the YRBS questionnaire? Have not culture difference? How the validity and reliability of research instrument? Authors omit the importance to report the questionnaire. However, the Method section does not provide enough information on instrument selection and sampling methods. It is not known whether appropriate in the sampling method, instrument selection and there are any differences between nine schools have or not.

Third, the results section needs further improvement. The tables are not very clear, should be revised; table 2 and 3 may need to be consolidated, add some notes and descriptions.

Comments:

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

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

none