Reviewer's report

Title: An Exploratory Randomised Controlled Trial of a Premises-Level Intervention to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm Including Violence in the United Kingdom

Version: 2 Date: 11 February 2012

Reviewer: Lisa Jones

Reviewer's report:

I am satisfied that the authors have answered the points made in my previous review sufficiently.

Minor essential revisions

The text is difficult to follow in some places due to missing punctuation and some minor text errors therefore the manuscript would benefit from a thorough proof read.

Abstract

Aims: Please check the wording of this sentence “To assess the feasibility of a randomised controlled trial of a licensed premises intervention to reduce serve intoxication and disorder”

Design: The word ‘exploratory’ is used twice “An exploratory two-armed parallel randomised exploratory controlled trial with a nested process evaluation”

Background

Third paragraph, first sentence needs editing. I would suggest changing to: “However, rigorous evidence of effectiveness is limited, with very few international studies employing a randomised controlled trial (RCT) design, and none have been…”

Under 'Intervention theory and implementation', the second paragraph as a whole would benefit from some fine editing by the authors. Some sentences are overly long and a little difficult to follow. Also whilst I understand the latter half of this section has been amended in response to a reviewer comment I think it would benefit the readability of the article if the authors could provide a briefer description of the risk factors literature than is currently provided.

Exploratory Trial

Inclusion/exclusion criteria. Please check the following sentence “number of recoded incidents in the 12 months leading up to the start of the project”. Should this be number of recorded incidents?

Secondary outcome measures. “From his we inferred that self-report experience”. Should be ‘this’?
Analytic strategy, please check these sentences (my suggestions in square brackets)

"However, premises-related [incidents?] might be related to specific events, such as sporting events..."

"These events are time-specific, particularly for temporary closure which is a form of censoring, [and] should be included in any analytic strategy."

Discussion
Please check the following sentences for clarity as some are difficult to follow or contain mistakes:

"It is methodologically feasible to test a RCT of a premises-level intervention, data can be collected to test outcomes.”

“A sufficient number of responses were collected on a per-premises basis to enable the formal analysis of survey data and responses to metrics included to test confounds to intervention effectiveness such as dispersal and non-randomly allocated missing data were high.”

“Failure was defined as a period in which premises were open and one or more violent incidents was were recorded by the police.”

“Our parsimonious approach was to simply assume that premises-level failures can lead to one or more incidents and that therefore one or more violent events indicated that premises were in a state of failure for not having prevent that or those incidents.”

“These assumptions, the nature of the underlying data and features of premises that would imply that intervention effectiveness may wane over time, that data are susceptible to censoring, placed requirements on available analytic strategies such that a derivation of the Cox model were required.”

"Our recent analysis of premises characteristics that promote violence found that premises whose customers showed a greater increase in intoxication and that premises with alcohol promotions were associated with a higher level of violence [20]."

General
There are inconsistencies within the report regarding whether numbers are presented in full or not, e.g. twelve months vs. 12 months, 16 vs. sixteen premises. Please check and amend.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

I declare that I have no competing interests