Reviewer's report

**Title:** Mortality and potential years of life lost attributable to alcohol consumption in Canada in 2005

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 14 March 2011

**Reviewer:** Anders Eriksson

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting and important paper, contributing to the estimation of alcohol related deaths. I have no major objections to any part of the paper.

I have, however, the following suggestions to the authors;

- In the Abstract and in the Discussion section, the authors state that "The mortality burden is... unnecessary, and could be reduced in a short period of time if...". In my opinion, this statement represents an unacceptably naive opinion, which must be modified to comply better with the real world situation.

- I suggest that the authors do not limit themselves to comparisons to Canada only, but include comparisons also to other, similar countries, e.g., Sweden (cf e.g. Sjögren H, Eriksson A, Romelsjö A. Alcohol-related mortality in Sweden; The Natl Board of Forensic Medicine, 2001 - contact rmv@rmv.se for a copy of this monography)

- The authors are encouraged to comment further on a mere ~30% respons rate of the CADUMS.

- Abbreviations should be explained the first time they are used (GBD) - or avoided.

**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.