Reviewer's report

Title: Parental knowledge of alcohol consumption: a cross sectional survey of 11-17 year old schoolchildren and their parents

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Reviewer: Alfgeir Logi Kristjansson

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and simple article that focuses on the descriptive differences between profiles of adolescent alcohol users and their parental knowledge of their use. I enjoyed reading it and have merely minor comments, mostly about writing style and methodology. My comments follow the order of sections in the paper.

Abstract: In the result section I think it would be better to tone down the repetitive nature of ORs and incorporate the OR findings more into the text narrative (e.g., "Children aged 11-14 years had a 2.7-fold..." better to write, "almost three times greater odds..." or similar.

Last sentence in the results section highlights a common problem that is found on many occasions in the paper; the sentences are often not written out or incomplete and it is almost as if the author assumes that the reader will know what is meant.

The same problem is evident in the conclusion of the abstract. First sentence, "....knowledge" more likely than who? Please carefully read THE WHOLE manuscript with such incomplete sentences in mind as they are found on many other occasions.

Last sentence of the conclusion in the abstract: "Thus.." is unsupported as it stands. Why would this assertion be of interest? The "thus" indicates a rationale that is not provided.

Introduction

Lower part of page 4. I have never before seen research that indicates that "Parental provision of alcohol has been associated with lower risks for the child". Are these solely UK based findings? For whom and by whom? This controversial assertion needs much stronger backup if it is to stand unchanged.

First paragraph, page 5. Last sentence, "However.... risky behaviors...". Too general, be specific to alcohol as the article is about alcohol use.

Last sentence in block two on page 5, "...and parenting methods of employment". On what? (the same issue as highlighted before, incomplete sentences).

Methods
Although not entirely clear, the description of the sample and recruiting procedures suggests that a convenience sample was employed. Please clarify and if that is correct, highlight this as a limitation in the appropriate section in the Discussion.

Based on the description provided, the measures of the study are very general which leads to less confidence in the findings. Please observe this in the limitation section.

Mid of page 7: "For the latter...." Latter than what..?

Mid of page 8. Not clear what "and endpoints" means in this context.

Top of page 9. "Parental provision of alcohol was used as the reference category because it is the most common method young people use to access alcohol". I have at least two problems about this sentence. 1) I am not sure this is true. Even if 2 studies in England have shown this, it is a much too strong assertion to stand as is. 2) As the authors highlight in the limitations it is not clear whether the kids get the alcohol they use from parents with their parents knowledge or not. In this context however, one cannot but assume that that is being meant - that the "provision" indicates that they get the alcohol from the their parents with their parents permission. Please clarify.

Results

Mid of page 9. Ethnicity is mentioned as part of the findings although in the methods section the authors state that this variable was omitted from the analyses.

Generally in the results and throughout the manuscript; be clear whether "consumption" is "alcohol consumption" or some other use.

Upper part of page 10. Sentence: "Lack of parental knowledge...". Sentence is not understandable. Please alter or omit.

Last sentence in the same block: "There was.... between lack of...". Not clear what the "between" refers to.

Bottom half of page 10; "..while females were more likely to mainly obtain...". The findings for females seem to suggest that obtaining alcohol in the home (or from parents as defined here) is the most common method for boys only and not girls. This goes against the previous assertion that this applies to all, which seems only to be the case because boys are the majority of respondents. Please clarify.

Mid of page 11: "Children who drank [alcohol]..." should be added here as is common throughout.

Last sentence in the same block is not understandable.

Discussion
The first at least 8 lines need rewriting. They are simply not understandable as is.
Modelling should be "Statistical modelling".
Page 13. On all occasions, "consumption" should be "alcohol consumption".
Bottom of page. Not sure what "secondly" refers to.
Page 14. As far as I know 5 or more drinks are an indication of binge drinking and not 7 or more. Please double check.
Figure 1. Title should add the word "alcohol" after "drink".
Tables 3 and 4 are very crammed and hard to understand. I would advice the authors to try to simplify them for the reader.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests