Reviewer's report

Title: More mental health problems after divorce in couples with high pre-divorce alcohol consumption than in other divorced couples: Results from the HUNT-study

Version: 3 Date: 12 June 2013

Reviewer: Joshua Breslau

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The authors should acknowledge the potential for unmeasured confounding in the selection of spouses that may influence the results. They report that divorce from spouses with high risk alcohol use has worse mental health effects than divorce from spouses without high risk alcohol use. It is likely that there are vulnerabilities that are not captured in the controls available to the study which might lead people to marry individuals with high risk alcohol use in the first place. This should be acknowledged in the discussion section.

2. Table 1 is confusing because it classifies people at T1 based on what happens to them afterwards. This could be turned around so that the table shows the prevalence of the events between T1 and T2 by mental health at T1. That would be much clearer.

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.