Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between healthy behaviors and health outcomes among older adults in Russia

Version: 3
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Reviewer: Andrew Stickley

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The relationship between healthy behaviors and health outcomes among older adults in Russia

The authors have addressed the points I raised previously in a satisfactory manner. There are however, several further issues.

Major compulsory revisions

Methods

1. For the description of the ethnicity variable on lines 304-306 it would be useful if the authors could give one example of an ethnic group from the Caucasus region, Volga region and from Middle Asia.
2. In lines 323-330 the authors explain about average marginal effects. I am not sure how common it is to use this type of outcome with the self-rated health categories, so if possible the authors should explain a little bit more about this technique and cite a previous study(studies) which has used this method when examining self-rated health.

Minor essential revisions

Introduction

3. Line 93. It is stated that “Pomerleau et al. [16] found the fewest abstainers in Russia…” However, this statement needs to be given a context to become meaningful i.e. “When examining drinking in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Pomerleau et al…”
4. Line 97. It states “Perlman et al. [17]…” However, Perlman was the sole author of the article.
5. On line 107 the word “men” needs to be changed to “males” as the Kislitsyna et al. study that is quoted (i.e. [19]) was undertaken among Russian adolescents not adults.
6. The text on lines 128-129 repeats the text on lines 68-69. The text in one of these places should be changed so there is no direct overlap.

Theoretical background
7. The text on lines 173-174 is repeated on lines 176-177. This needs to be changed.

Methods

8. Lines 222-223 it states “Wave 1 data from Russia” were used. However, in the Abstract on lines 22-23 it states that “Wave 1…data (2007-2010) collected in the European portion of the Russian Federation were used for this study.” So, which statement is correct – were the data from the whole of Russia or just from the European part of Russia?

9. On lines 223-224 it states that data from “417 respondents aged 18-49 years…were used for the present study”. However, this is not correct. Data were only used from respondents aged 50 and above – so this reference to the population under 50 should be removed as it is confusing.

10. On lines 252-253 it describes the ‘normal fruit and vegetable consumption’ variable which is categorized as 1 if a respondent had more than 5 servings a day and 0 if they had fewer than 5. However, how were those respondents who had exactly 5 portions a day categorized?

11. Line 290. The (Cockerham et al., 2006) citation is referenced in the wrong style.

Results

12. On lines 335-336 it says: “Russian nation where >50% of men and <20% of men were single.” This sentence does not make sense and needs to be rewritten.

13. Lines 361-363 it mentions about “Non-Russian nationality decreased the probability of very good self-rated health and increased the probability of very bad health…” However, the authors need to be more precise here in describing their results – as not all non-Russian groups had worse health.

Discussion

14. On lines 405 and 406 it mentions the term “alcohol addiction”. This would be better if it was replaced with “heavy drinking” or “heavy alcohol consumption”.

15. On lines 487 to 488 the authors mention the “CI96% overlap”. What is this referring to?

16. On line 492 the word ‘al’ needs to be replaced with the word “all”.

References

17. For reference 18 the abbreviated journal form is incorrect – it should be ‘Alcohol Alcohol' not ‘Alcohol’.

18. Reference 20 is incomplete – a full reference needs to be added here.

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.