Author's response to reviews

Title: Work stress and alcohol consumption among adolescents: moderation by family and peers

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Dear Editor,

On behalf of my co-authors, we are pleased to submit our original study, “Work stress and alcohol consumption among adolescents: moderation by family and peers.” In accordance with Psychology of Addictive Behaviors guidelines, this manuscript contains original materials that have not been submitted, published, or in press elsewhere. Each author has seen and approved this manuscript, and provided sufficient contribution to qualify for authorship. The authors declare no competing interests. In accordance with journal guidelines, we have added a consent statement to the methods section and have included an Acknowledgements section.

Working adolescents may experience factors in the work environment that create stress. Furthermore, working long hours during adolescence may contribute to work stress. Working long hours has been established as a risk factor for increased rates of alcohol use, lower educational aspirations, as well as behavioral problems. There remain knowledge gaps in understanding the relationship between work stress and alcohol use in adolescents and the impact of other factors. The surrounding work and social environment, which influence the development and persistence of alcohol problems in adolescents, have not been extensively studied in the context of work stress. Moderating factors that may influence the rate of alcohol use in adolescents are important to identify in order to reduce the impact of work stress. A better understanding of these factors can lead better preventive efforts to delay the onset of alcohol use in adolescence.

The present study uses a nationally representative, cross-sectional study of grade 12 students to examine the association between work stress and the frequency of alcohol use as well as drunkenness. Work stress represents hours of paid work, job satisfaction, and perceived personal safety at work. We observed a strong positive association between work stress and alcohol use and drunkenness in adolescents that was moderated by negative peer influences. The present study suggests that work stress can be influenced by a variety of factors in the work environment, and interacts with the social environment to increase alcohol use in adolescents.

I thank you for considering our paper for possible publication and as corresponding author, look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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