Reviewer's report

Title: Association between tobacco and alcohol use among young adult bar patrons: a cross-sectional study in three cities

Version: 1  Date: 20 October 2013

Reviewer: Dorothy Newbury-Birch

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

There is essential process details that are missing from the manuscript. Did the surveys take place in the main bar or were patrons asked to go to another area of the bar? did they complete it in front of their friends? how long did they take to complete on average? were any fidelity checks done to ensure that researchers were targetting all those that were eligible - ie another researcher?

Detail needs to be provided as to why the measures were categorised in the way they were - ie frequent drinker being 10+ days or why binge drinking was categorised as 5+ drinks or why occassional binge drinking was <10 days - this seems really important missing information and could also indicate why the results are different to other studies - did the other studies use the same measurements?

It would have been useful to have a column in the tables that shows all results (for all three areas).

The last sentence uses the word addiction - there is nothing in this paper to indicate addiction and this should not be used.

Minor essential revisions

In the discussion the authors sometimes use whole numbers for percentages and other times use 1 decimal place. This should be consistent.

Figure one either needs to have more information (percentages on the figure) or changed into a table which would be more useful.

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