Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol Consumption, Physical Activity, and Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Version: 1 Date: 27 February 2006

Reviewer: Ulrich John

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a report of an analysis that is very important for public health research.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- abstract: In the methods section of the abstract, only chronic disease risk factors, in the results section of the abstract cardiovascular risk factors are mentioned. Cardiovascular risk factors should be explained in the methods section of the abstract.

- abstract, last sentence: contains little information. Please give more specific conclusion as you do on p 12.

- P4, para 1, line 1: "biological plausibility". A reference should be given here.

- P5, para 1: Since not all readers of BMC Public Health are familiar with the BRFSS, there should be some more information given in brief about the BRFSS: participation rate and the sample design.

- P5, "Assessment of Alcohol and Physical Activity": Abstention should, firstly, be defined here as abstention from alcohol because "abstention" is used several times throughout the paper. Sometimes the reader is not quite sure whether the authors really mean abstention from alcohol. Secondly, the authors should give the precise definition of abstention, e. g. did not drink any alcohol since ... ?

- P7, para 2: "dependent variable abstention or sedentary lifestyle": Does this mean abstention versus all alcohol consumers or versus moderate drinkers only?

- P7, para 2: "in most epidemiological studies". I recommend to rephrase "in many .." since "most" might be only true for the US.

- P7, para 2: It would be more clear to the reader if the education levels could be expressed as number of years.

- P7, last para: Instead of the p only, the correlation coefficient and whether it was Spearman's rho should be given in addition.

- P 9, para 1: "suggesting that observational ... to these risk factors." belongs to the Discussion section.

P11, last para: "contains some individuals who quit..." "some" should be deleted since it is conjecture.
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- P3, para 2: "For several reasons" : I found only two reasons in that para.

P4, para 2: "at least a few, and typically several": should be more precise.

P5, para 2: "IRB" should be written in full.

Reference list, ref. 6: JAMA

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

- The references in the text are written after the , or .

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.