Author's response to reviews

Title: The relationship between parental socio-economic status and episodes of drunkenness among adolescents: findings from a cross-national survey

Authors:

  Matthias Richter (matthias.richter@uni-bielefeld.de)
  Anja Leppin (aleppin@health.sdu.dk)
  Saoirse Nic Gabhainn (saoirse.nicgabhainn@nuigalway.ie)

Version: 2 Date: 6 October 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript "The relationship between parental socio-economic status and episodes of drunkenness among adolescents: findings from a cross-national survey" which we hereby resubmit to BMC Public Health.

Detailed comments on our revision and how we have responded to each of the referees’ comments can be found below.

With kind regards

Matthias Richter, Anja Leppin and Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
Reply to Reviewer 1 (Pedro Marques-Vidal):
7001313751072106_comment.pdf

Major Revisions:

1) The reported results were already based on a model including parental occupation and FAS at the same time (see page 7, last paragraph). The two separate tables were probably misleading. Unfortunately, for layout reasons, it was impossible to present the results in one table. However, information on the simultaneous analysis of parental occupation and FAS was added to the tables 2 and 3 as well as to the discussion part of the revised manuscript. Further, we added information on the relationship between parents’ occupation and FAS (reporting Spearman’s rho) and discussed this issue in the discussion part of the manuscript.

2) The analyses were re-run using fathers’ and mothers’ occupational status. As this analysis brings up other problems (large number of missing information for women = housewives) and because the main conclusions of the study are not altered by these results, they are reported in the discussion part of the paper as additional information.

3) We added the p-value of the overall effect of the variables in the model to the tables 2 and 3. Additionally, we added a paragraph on the possible problems of multiple testing and lack of p-value adjustment within the “limitations” part of the paper – as suggested by the reviewer.

4) The formerly given information on the categorization of parental occupation was probably misleading. Exact information on how and why we used this classification was added to the methods part. Basically, this method was chosen because the two highest and lowest groups only had small sample sizes, so the new classification was used to generate three groups of approximately similar size.

Minor revisions:

1) An overall OR for all countries (adjusted by country) was added to tables 2 and 3.
2) The reference was corrected.
3) The capitalization was removed.
Reply to Reviewer 2 (Jo Anne Grunbaum):
4060381061120331_comment.pdf

1) We used STATA for our analysis, but had forgotten to mention that in the text. The information was added to the methods section.
2) The sentence was amended according to the reviewer’s suggestion.
3) The sentence “However, in most of these countries…” was deleted.

Minor revisions:

1) The word “develop” was amended to “the extent and pattern of socio-economic differences in health behaviour during adolescence”.
2) The title of table 1 was changed to “Distribution of family affluence and parental occupation in 28 European and North American countries in 2001-2002” and replaced within the text (after the description of the measurement of parental occupation).
3) Further information on how the countries condensed the answers into a single scale was added to the description of the variable.