Reviewer's report

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

Version: Date: 23 June 2006

Reviewer: Pedro Marques-Vidal

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting article on the effects of parental occupation and family affluence on adolescent drunkenness. The article is well written and the data comes from a well conducted international survey. Still, the authors should perform some more calculations so to check the consistency of their results.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1) The effects of parental occupation and family affluence are in opposite directions. The authors should indicate if there is any inverse relationship between parents' occupation and FAS. Further, it would be useful to introduce both parents' occupation and FAS in the same model.
2) The authors used only the highest parental occupation to establish the relationship. Since there might be a gender influence (for instance, children tend to eat like their mothers and not like their fathers), it would be interesting to conduct such an analysis so to assess whether drunkenness is related to the father or the mother occupation.
3) The reviewer believes the authors made separate analyses for each country and gender. Since there are 28 countries, then 28 * 4 = 112 analyses were performed, and a 95% test might not be suitable, as for a 5% significance level on average 5% of "truly non significant" relationships would become "statistically significant". The authors should at least discuss this issue.
4) The authors have divided the FAS scores into tertiles, but grouped occupational categories unevenly (2 for high, one for medium and 3 for low). Was there any difference if occupational categories were equally distributed? The authors should provide some information on the rationale for this categorization.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1) Please provide an overall OR (for all countries, adjusted by country) at the bottom of tables 2 and 3.
2) In references 13 and 32: please correct the second author name to Rimpelä.
3) References 25 and 30: please remove capitalization (retain only in first word of title).

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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 importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'