Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of alcohol consumption, psychological distress and smoking status on emergency department presentations in New South Wales, Australia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
23 January 2007

Editorial Director, BMC Public Health
Professor Deborah Saltman
BioMed Central Ltd
Middlesex House
34-42 Cleveland Street
London W1T 4LB, UK

Dear Professor Saltman,

Thank you for your prompt response regarding our manuscript (MS: 1532131474121265) titled ‘The effects of alcohol consumption, psychological distress and smoking status on emergency department presentations in New South Wales, Australia’ submitted to BMC Public Health. I have addressed each of the issues the reviewer raised below:

1. **Response rate**
   The reviewer indicated concern about the 66% response rate for the survey. Population surveys using similar methodologies, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in the United States, report similar, if not lower, response rates. An additional reference documenting this has been added to the Methods section. Further information about any potential biases related to this response rate have not been provided.

2. **Cox Proportional Hazard**
   The reviewer indicated a lack of familiarity with using Cox Proportional Hazard models with a cross-sectional dataset. Further explanation has been provided in the Methods section about why this methodology was used.

I trust that my responses above address the concerns of the reviewer. As requested, I have ensured the manuscript conforms to the journal style and have included a statement in the Methods section about the ethical approval for this data collection. I appreciate your efforts in reviewing our work and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Devon Indig
Phd Candidate