Reviewer's report

Title: Party package travels on alcohol use and related problems in a holiday resort a a mixed methods study

Version: 2 Date: 27 April 2008

Reviewer: Eric R Pedersen

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. One limitation not addressed is the use of retrospective self-report.

2. More information regarding the items on the survey is necessary. Why was tobacco use assessed but not included in analyses? Was alcohol use in Denmark measured using just the 8 point scale? And what time period was typical Denmark drinking based on (past few months, past year, ever)?

- Minor Essential Revisions

3. A definition of how “binge drinking” is defined is needed in the Introduction. Different researchers define this term differently while others abandon this term and use “heavy episodic drinking.”

4. It is unclear what age population the authors are referring to throughout the Introduction. “Young people” is quite vague and can range from adolescents to college students to young professionals in their late 20s to 30s. This reduces the impact of the literature cited in support that heavy drinking is problematic because it does not reference a particular age range (presumably the age range of 16 to 30 which was targeted in the study).

5. How do the authors know the approximate number of young Danish people who travelled to Sunny Beach with party package agencies? Perhaps this information was released to the authors from the travel agencies themselves? If this is an estimation, it may be better to report that “we estimated the approximate number of young Danes between 16 and 30 travelling to SB with party package agencies to be 5,100 based of …”

6. What is the rationale for targeting Danish young people only? Also, perhaps it is the survey study previously published, but how did the researchers verify that all people travelling to Denmark were “Danish?”

7. It is unclear as to what the difference is between medical treatment and medical treatment for an alcohol-related problem, especially since both are included as “indicators” of alcohol related harm.

8. A better rationale and description for 12 units as an indicator of harmful or excessive drinking should be included.
9. The discussion of the researchers’ anecdotal experience with SB travelers is interesting but not specifically research focused. Therefore, to include this piece, I suggest the authors specifically attempt to tie in the anecdotal experience with the (1) rationale for the study and (2) design of the study.

10. I wonder about the appropriateness and legality of specifically referencing the Sunny Beach resort as the targeted destination. I believe authors could refer to the destination as “a well-known nightlife resort in Bulgaria” to avoid any negative press.

11. I am confused why the quotation from one of the party package guides is written in Danish while the rest of the article is in English.

12. The vast majority of the sample travelled with neither parents or a partner, who did they travel with (e.g., friends, alone)? Was this assessed?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests