Reviewer's report

Title: A randomised controlled trial to measure alcohol use among university students in Sweden measured by an electronic screening instrument

Version: 2 Date: 7 March 2009

Reviewer: Sven-Olof Isacsson

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Revisions.
Page 6: The Widmark formula. This formula does not include during how many hours the person have been drinking the alcohol. This means that the permillage can vary extremely much depending on if you drink the alcohol during one hour or during 6-7 hours. The alcohol is continuously metabolized with about 0,15 per hour. This is important when you discuss behaviour etc.

2. Page 15: Study limitations. You have no comment on the implication this low participation rate has on your conclusions. Have you reached a population who drink less than the non-participants or perhaps more? Are “visits to the kiosk” you mention common among students? Maybe you can find out a little more about your participants.

Minor revisions:


4. First time you mention e-SBI: Explain exactly what it means (page 3).

5. Somewhere, maybe under Discussion I suggest that you tell something about the prognosis in the long run for those drinking too much when they are young.

6. Items measured, page 5. I suggest you give a little more information on what the students drink. One glass of wine: 12 grams. 4 cl of aquavit or hard liquor. 50 cl of beer...

7. Do you have any information regarding what money means for there drinking habits, as well as there social networks?

8. I have read several papers from Prof Berglunds group, Lund University based on intervention among university students, aiming to change there drinking habits. Will you please check if they should be included in your ref.list.

9. In table 1 there are important differences between faculties. You may have some comment on that. You standardize for it but perhaps some comment could be of interest. Fig 1 shows the same.

10. Table 4 shows that men think drinking is good reward for working. Is this in agreement with other studies?

11. Table 5: Not necessary to have p-values. 95 %CI is enough in my mind.

12. Table 6: Is the explanation that when only men have parties they are not so
violent. When young men and women are together and drink to much there will be more violence?

Discretionary.

13. Page 5: Some commenmt regarding memory after they have been drinking to much?
14. More women partipated. Maybe they are more afraid of drinking too much?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’