Author's response to reviews

Title: New estimates of the number of children living with substance misusing parents: results from UK national household surveys

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RE: Revised Re-submission of Manuscript MS: 1259433353256191 - New estimates of the number of children living with substance misusing parents: results from UK national household surveys

Dear Editor

Further to last week’s submission of the revised paper, the reviewers’ comments on our paper and preparation for the upcoming launch of the findings, prompted us to revisit the databases. We then realized that we do, in fact, have a much better measure of problem drinking which we wish to add to the paper. The limitations with the rates of hazardous and dangerous drinking from the GHS and HsFE are that they are a gross underestimate because they only apply to a sub-sample and we feel this is misleading for the reader. The NPMS survey however used standardised measures of problem drinking, on the total sample, thus generating more accurate and reliable estimates than can be achieved from the simple calculation of weekly units consumed. We have now replaced the weaker estimates with the more robust ones and have adjusted the text accordingly. We have also corrected figures where there were errors. All figures have been checked and are consistent with the figures reported in other reports/papers using these data.

We are truly apologetic for this oversight. We recognise that this will now likely delay the potential publication of the manuscript but feel that these changes are a huge improvement, and must ensure that any figures reported in the media are consistent with those reported in the paper. Please consider this latest manuscript as our revised version for your consideration. Thank you for your co-operation. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Faithfully

Dr Victoria Manning and on behalf of all authors

Research Fellow