Reviewer's report

Title: Global burden of injuries attributable to alcohol consumption in 2004: a novel way of calculating the burden of injuries attributable to alcohol consumption

Version: 3 Date: 5 February 2012

Reviewer: Gretchen Stevens

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors should be commended for including estimates of alcohol harm caused to others (including non-drinkers). The authors have essentially proposed two formulas to scale attributable fractions for harm caused to others from an Australian study to other settings where alcohol consumption levels may differ, one formula for motor vehicle collisions and another for violence. I understand that the formulas they propose are new. Given that, the authors should justify why they use two different formulas to do essentially the same thing.

• Minor Essential Revisions

2. The formulas on page 8 are still a bit hard to follow. I believe the second formula is missing “1” at the end, and in the last formula RR(binge) is an independent variable and a dependent variable. The dependent variable should be renamed binge-day or the like.

• Discretionary Revisions

3. The authors have made important steps toward clarifying the methods, but I think they could still be more transparent. The authors use the same formula to calculate RRs for each drinking occasion, whether it's a binge occasion or a normal drinking occasion. As the editors have suggested, it would be easier to follow if they first described how they determined the distribution of alcohol consumption within individuals (i.e., were there only binge and non-binge days, or were there more categories of drinking intensity? Was the same alcohol consumption assumed for every binge and non-binge occasion, or did they differ by setting?), and then how the prevalence of different alcohol consumption distributions were estimated for each population using survey data (to binge drinkers, non-binge-drinkers, and abstainers). With the exposure estimates clarified, the formulas for alcohol attributable fractions can be simplified.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.