Author's response to reviews

Title: The prevalence and correlates of alcohol use and alcohol use disorders: a population based study in Colombo, Sri Lanka

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Author's response to reviews: see over
22nd May 2015

Dr. K. Keyes,
BMC Psychiatry

Dear Dr Keyes,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript (MS: 1472429255142873) entitled “The prevalence and correlates of alcohol use and alcohol use disorders: a population based study in Colombo, Sri Lanka”, for consideration of publication in the Journal of affective disorders. We have addressed the remaining concern below but would be happy to extend our explanation if you feel that this is necessary.

The manuscript contains 4 Tables.

Thank you for re-considering this work.

Yours sincerely,

Helena Zavos

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Response to Editor

Editors comments:

1. I do not see in the authors response or in the revised manuscript that ("they have adjusted the standard error for twin clustering. Thus, my decision remains, the authors need to adjust the statistical analyses for clustering within twins or justify the statistical approach more rigorously.")

All analyses were adjusted for twin clustering using the ‘robust cluster’ command in STATA. We explain this in the methods section under ‘statistical analysis’. We apologize that this was not made clearer in the initial response to reviewers.

‘...Analyses were performed in STATA [19] and as our sample included individuals from the same families, statistical analyses were conservatively corrected for the non-independence of observations using the ‘robust’ cluster command as is standard in analyses of this type [see 20, 21 for more information]...’