Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 25 March 2015

Reviewer: Thilini Rajapakse

Reviewer's report:

Research in this area from Sri Lanka is limited, hence this is an important study.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Method: The study sample consists of twins identified via an annual census in Colombo, and a parallel, singleton population selected from same areas as the twins were located (lines 112-119). Given this participant selection, is not clear how these findings could be generalized to the overall urban population/population in Colombo. Could the authors please clarify this issue further? – particularly since one objective of the study is to describe the epidemiology of AUD in a representative sample of the Colombo district (line 93).

Discretionary revisions:
2. Line 245-247: “Second, women may show higher adherence to the religious guidelines, such as strong opposition to the use of any addictive substance in Buddhism, the major religion in Sri Lanka” – is there any data to support this surmise?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests