Author's response to reviews

Title: Consumption and drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages among women in Ghana: A cross-sectional study

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Submission of Revised manuscript – Consumption and drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages among women in Ghana: A cross-sectional study

We hereby submit the revised manuscript entitled "Consumption and drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages among women in Ghana: A cross-sectional study " by Anthony Mwinilanaa Tampah-Naah and Samuel Twumasi Amoah to be considered for publication as a research article in your journal. The manuscript consists of one file; thus the write-up and tables.

In the present study revealed 17.5% consumed alcoholic beverages. Factors that were found to be associated with women who ever consumed alcoholic beverages in a binary logistic regression model were age (all age groups: 15-19 years up to 45-49 years), region (Central, Greater Accra, Volta, Ashanti, Northern, Upper East, and Upper West), ethnicity (Ga or Dangme, Mole-Dagbani, Grussi, Gruma or Mande), wealth quintile (middle), and employment [past 12 months] (those employed). In the multinomial logistic regression model, drinking pattern (past 7 days) of alcoholic beverages was associated with women in the Central (none), Greater Accra Region (none and 4 or more times), Eastern (none and 2-3 times), Brong Ahafo (none), Upper East (none), those who attained primary education (4 or more times), Ga/Dangme ethnic group (none), those of middle wealth quintile (none), and those employed (4 or more times).

We wish to confirm that there are no known conflicts of interest associated with this publication and that there was no financial supports for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

The authors have read and approved the manuscript's content.

Revisions made based on reviewers comments:

Reviewer 1: Bosiljka Dijkanovic

Major comment

Comment 1

“It would be very appropriate if authors submitted the version with track changes, as well as a response letter with evidences of changes made – it would simplify the process of second revision”
Response to comment 1
Page numbers and line numbers have been included in the manuscript to facilitate reviewing.

Comment 2
“‘Alcohol consumption’ and its definition remain to be the greatest challenge in this manuscript”

Response to comment 2
The definition of ‘Alcohol consumption’ has been further modified (see Dependent variables section of the manuscript) (Page 5; Lines 157-180)

Comment 3
“It remains unclear how authors sub-categorized women in relation to their alcohol consumption and its frequency, and their explanations are insufficient. In my opinion, Table 3 should be placed as Table 2.”

Response to comment 3
Sub-categorises in the manuscript were been informed by the 2008 Ghana and Demographic Health Survey where the present’s study data was extracted from. And this was reflective of the frequencies presented indicating their proportions. (Page 5 and 6; Lines 182-205)

Table positions were maintained due to the trend of analysis we did. (Page 15-16; Lines 554 and 557)

Comment 4
“Furthermore, I do not understand the numbers presented in Table 2 and Table 3, it seems they do not correspond to each other. For example, I looked at the proportion of women 15-49 years old who drink alcohol (Table 3: no=28, yes=57, as a sum of other categories). However, in the previous Table 2, it was stated that 68 women drink alcohol. The same discrepancies are identified in the other age groups as well and they need to be clarified”.

Response to comment 4
Table 2 and Table 3 were extensively revised; figures were recalculated to correspond (Pages 15-16; Lines 554 and 557).
**Reviewer 2: Karl Peltzer**

**Major comment**

“Most issues have been addressed, only remaining is to describe the prevalence of problem drinking (assessed by number of days x typical amount per year), and also a regression model with the problem drinkers”

**Response to comment**

The analysis of the manuscript doesn’t reflect much of problem drinking among women; due to the study design applied and the questions asked. So the prevalence may not be suitable; we may be over emphasizing alcoholic beverage consumption and drinking pattern among the women.

However, we multinomial regression model was fitted to examine the drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages among women (see Table 4) (Page 17; Line 561)

**Reviewer 3: Priscilla Martinez**

**Abstract**

**Background**

**Comment 1 – It was on the usage of “alcohol use”**

**Response to Comment 1**

The present study avoided the usage of “alcohol use”; and was consistent with the usage of alcoholic beverage consumption (Page 2; Lines 33-35)

**Comment 2 – “… as part of public health messages around alcohol consumption, the only time women are told to abstain from alcohol use is when they are pregnant or trying to get pregnant. Otherwise, just as men are, they are advised to consume alcohol in moderation”**

**Response to comment 2**

This was revised with emphasis on the consumption of alcoholic beverages in moderation (Page 2; Lines 33-35)

**Comment 3 – “… that ‘female anatomy’ processes alcohol more slowly is incorrect”**

**Response to comment 3**

This was revised accordingly – removed (Page 2; Line 33-35)
Comment 4 – “… the different physiological effects of alcohol on women than men is thought to be due to a combination of biological and non-biological factors … such that stating only the difference in physicality is limiting”.

Response to comment 4

The present study considered both biological and non-biological in the write-up; portion removed (Page 2; Lines 33-35)

Methods

Comment 5 – “reported history of alcohol consumption”

Response to comment 5

In 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, no time frame was stated in relation to reported history of alcohol consumption among women. The present study considered the time frame to be the life time of women (see Page 5; Lines 157-180)

Comment 6 – It was on the conclusion of the abstract. Previously, it was “… Sensitization programmes and economic empowerment programmes that seek to decrease and control the consumption of alcoholic beverages should focus on women who are most at risk of alcohol use and abuse”.

Response to comment 6

This was totally revised (see conclusion of abstract) (Page 2; Lines 56-58)

Introduction of Manuscript

The introduction was revised extensively; in a new way based on the comments put forward (Page 3; Lines 67-129)

Methods

Dependent variable – There was not time frame specified on the 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey in relation to the question “Do you consume alcohol?”. The present study assumed the time frame to be the life time of a woman (see Dependent variables description in the manuscript). (Page 5; Lines 157-180)

Also, multinomial regression models were applied to examine the drinking pattern of alcoholic beverage consumption (see Table 4). (Page 17; Line 561) This introduced the second dependent variable of the present study – drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages (see Dependent Variables section of manuscript) (Page 5; Lines 157-180)
Results

Slight differences in some proportions were not mentioned in the write up. For example, difference between urban and rural alcoholic beverages consumption. (Pages 6-7; Lines 233-251)

The p-values from the chi-square test for comparisons within the independent variables and drinking pattern of alcoholic beverages consumption were indicated (see Table 3) (Page 16; Line 557)

Discussion

Due to the extensive changes in the analysis and the outcome of the results, the discussion section was also extensive revised; taking into consideration all suggestions (Pages 8-10; Lines 311-399)

Limitations

Suggested limitations were also considered such as bias in reporting and the time frame used by the 2008 GDHS (see last paragraph of the Discussion) (Page 10; Lines 388-399).

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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