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: Karl Peltzer**

**Major comment**

“I am not sure if it is worth publishing data on drinking, if we do not know much about the quantities consumed; those who drink once or several occasions in a week, could have high volume or low volume like one drink per occasion. So could be moderate drinkers but also be risk drinkers”.

**Response to comment**
We did not actually mean to state that quantities of alcohol consumed by the women could not be measured. It can be measured in a subjective manner. And thankfully the reviewer has given as the way forward to state that with regard to the pattern of alcoholic beverage consumption by the women (see Line 324 - 327)

Reviewer 3: Priscilla Martinez

Introduction of Manuscript

Comment 1

The statement “Alcoholic beverages consumption by women tends to attract more attention probably due to their susceptibility” Removed in the first paragraph (Page 3; Lines 67-73)

Comment 2

References provided to support the statement “However, the mere consumption of alcoholic beverages by any person may not predispose them to health or social consequences; it is rather the quantity of alcoholic beverages consumed and the drinking pattern that, importantly, can predict the likely health effects or other socially related consequences they encounter” (Page 3; Line 74).

Comment 3

“preferred quantity of alcohol” substituted with “recommended quantity of alcohol” (Page 3; Line 75)

Comment 4

A reference from “International Center for Alcohol Policies (ICAP) (2010)” added to reflect the entire discussion around alcohol drinking guidelines (Page 3; Line 80)

Comment 5

The statement “Besides, this view is limited to the extent that no mention is made about the level of alcohol content in the drink” deleted (Page 3; Line 83)

Comment 6

Appropriate references indicated (Page 3; Line 93)

Comment 7
The statement “akpeteshie use among women predisposing them to sexual abuse, rape” removed (Page 3; Line 119)

Comment 8

Revised accordingly (Page 5: Line 172 - 174)

Comment 9

Misplaced word “mothers” changed to “women” (Page 5; Lines 184 - 186)

Comment 10

The denominator was “Only women who reported ever having a drink”. See Table 3. (Page 16; Line 585)

Comment 11

Results sections

Paragraph 1: This was removed “age from the age group of 15-19 years (7%) up to 35-39 years (25%), dropped to 22% with women 40-44 years, and increased again in the 45-49 years old women (26%). Also, 26% of women who were divorced, separated or widowed and about 20% of married or cohabiting women consumed alcoholic beverages.” (Page 6; Line 231 - 237)

Comment 12

Reasons Luginaah and Dakubo (2003) gave were added to the discussion in the paragraph in this format “Men consume alcohol mainly for coping responses, for example, increased self-confidence, adult status, and to cope with the various social demands. On the side of women, they seem to consume alcohol for purpose of socialising with their peers”. Subsequent sentence was revised accordingly (Page 9; Line 337 - 342)

Comment 13

This is a speculation. However, the sentence was revised as “Probably women in these regions are equally engaged in social occasions where alcoholic beverages are at their disposal or they generally have a higher tendency of consuming alcoholic beverages frequently.” (Page 9; Line 355 - 357)

Comment 14

This statement was added to the paragraph “Besides, more detailed surveys that take into account a variety of aspects of alcohol use, such as context, motivations and expectations, would
be useful for improving the understanding of alcohol use in the country”.

Comment 15
Analysis expanded to indicate the regions that the various ethnic groups are predominately found in the country (Page 9; Line 370 - 373)

Cross-tabs were explored and the statement was revised as “The present study’s analysis reflects that most women had attained at least secondary education …” (Page 9; Line 376 - 378)

Comment 16
Time frame limitation added (Page 10; Line 395 - 397)

Suggestions made on including better measures of alcohol use in future GDHS (Page 10; Line 406 - 408)

Comment 17
Suggestions added to the conclusion (Page 10; Line 414 - 421)

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

Sincerely,

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