Author's response to reviews

Title: Consumption and drinking frequency of alcoholic beverage 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 frequency 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, higher drinking frequency (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

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 3

The lack of any quantity measure of alcohol use by women in this manuscript has been acknowledged as part of its limitation (see Line 368-369). Since “drinking pattern” is understood as a composite of frequency and quantity over time, “drinking pattern” as was captured in the manuscript has been revised to “past-week drinking frequency”.

(See Lines 4, 31, 33, 38, 41, 50,
Reviewer 2: Priscilla Martinez

Comment 1

“I am concerned about considering the outcome variable for "alcohol consumption" to represent any lifetime use. As the authors state, no timeframe was given for this variable, and to interpret it as meaning whether or not women have ever consumed any alcohol is subject to several problems.”

Response to comment 1

The time frame for alcohol consumption has been revised to indicate estimates of the past-week (past 7 days) preceding the survey (see Line 158).

Comment 2

“Similarly, I have concerns with the drinking pattern outcome variable. Drinking pattern is understood as a composite of frequency and quantity over time. That the variable employed in this analysis only includes frequency is limiting and falls short of meeting the definition of a drinking pattern. To be clear and transparent, I think it would be most accurate to call it "past-week drinking frequency" instead of drinking pattern.”

Response to comment 2

“Drinking pattern” was revised to “past-week drinking frequency” in the manuscript (See Lines 4, 31, 33, 38, 41, 50, 57, 72, 84, 122, 123, 156, 166, 204, 216, 249, 251, 253, 257, 277, 284, 286, 296, 326, 339, 365, 368, 374, 385, 569, 573).

Comment 3

“It's also important to acknowledge the lack of any quantity measure.”

Response to comment 3

The lack of any quantity measure of alcohol use by women in this manuscript has been acknowledged as part of its limitation (see Line 368-369)

Comment 4

“While the interpretations are generally sound, there seems to be a tendency to overstate the results. Indeed this work shows there is variety in frequency of past-week consumption among Ghanian women, but generally use is low and moderate. So stating that moderate use needs to be taught seems redundant, and rather the maintenance of moderate use seems to be necessitated”.
Response to comment 4

In the manuscript, the issue of educating women to drink alcohol moderately was revised to reflect the maintenance of moderate use of alcohol (see Line 384).

Comment 5

“Relatedly, the authors will make statements saying that "most" women are high consumers, when referring to a 37% rate of use among women from a certain region, and this is closer to a third than over a half”.

Response to comment 5

The usage of “most” to refer to a 37% rate was avoided (see Line 302)

Comment 6

“All, much of what is reported here is also reported in the 2009 report on the Ghana 2008 DHS, and yet no references are made to this work, either in terms of how the results are similar and how the analysis in this paper extends that knowledge”.

Response to comment 6

References have been made to the 2009 report on the Ghana 2008 DHS (see Lines 275, 285)

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

Sincerely,

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