Reviewer’s report

Title: Does lowering alcohol use among Dutch high school students lead to higher use of tobacco and cannabis?

Version: 3 Date: 27 April 2015

Reviewer: Evelien Vermeulen-Smit

Reviewer’s report:

Overall this was much improved and the authors did a sufficient job addressing the reviewer concerns.

Minor Essential Revisions:
In the fourth paragraph of the background sessions "does differential changes" is not correct, do you mean: "do differential changes" or does differential change"?

In the fifth paragraph of the result section please change "13 years olds" into 13-year-olds.

In the result section, first paragraph of the subsection on clustering of substance use, it is stated that "prevalence rates of students...increased from 36.6% in 2005 to 60.7% in 2009 (p <= 0.001), whereas in table 4 percentages increased from 36.6% to 52.6%, which is not significantly different. This is unclear. Possibly, different models are used including or excluding gender, age and educational level. That is, in the result section percentages might be controlled for gender, age and educational level, whereas uncontrolled percentages are reported in table 4. Please be consistent, and report either controlled or uncontrolled percentages in both results and tables, or mention both in the result section and explain which model is most relevant.

Discretionary revisions:
The authors may want to be consistent in referring to educational level, instead of referring to educational levels by mentioning both schooling level and educational level.

in the second paragraph of the method section the authors may want to change "answer possibilities" and "answer options" into response possibilities" and "response options", respectively.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests