Reviewer’s report

Title: What could keep young people away from alcohol and cigarettes? Findings from the UK Household Longitudinal Study

Version: 0  Date: 25 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Raglan Maddox

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be commended on a timely and useful piece of research. Overall, this paper contributes an important relevant perspective regarding health and wellbeing.

My only substantial concern is regarding the identification and inclusion of the covariates, specifically presence of religious beliefs ('We treated this item as a binary response, 1 being believers and 0 being non-believers.').

Given the diverse views and health behaviours within religion, notably in relation to alcohol and tobacco use, as well as the relative diversity across the UK in relation to religions (approx. 60% Christian, 25% not religious, 15% other), there should be some justification and theory outlined regarding why presence of religious belief would be treated as a homogenous group, impacting on tobacco and alcohol use and included as a covariate.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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