Reviewer's report

Title: The health-related social costs of alcohol in Belgium

Version: 0 Date: 05 Mar 2017

Reviewer: James G. Murphy

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is a very clear and well written paper that appears to take advantage of state-of-the-science health economics methods to estimate the social costs of alcohol in Belgium. I should state that I am not a health economist so I cannot fully scrutinize the methods but overall I find the results to be interesting and compelling and the analyses appropriate. I also appreciate the comprehensive and thoughtful acknowledgment of limitations presented in the discussion.

The authors should make a clearer case for how these data extend previous research, both with respect to informing policy decisions in Belgium and also the alcohol/health economics research field more generally.

Also, the discussion should address factors that may be unique to health care system in Belgium that may inform potential generalizability to costs associated with alcohol misuse in other countries. Finally, the authors should make brief reference to the economic benefits of alcohol sales.

Minor Points - font used for figure headings is unclear and difficult to read

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
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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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