Author’s response to reviews

Title: Investigating the growing trend of non-drinking among young people; analysis of repeated cross-sectional surveys in England 2005-2015

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for your comments; we hope that with these additional changes the manuscript will be ready for publication in BMC Public Health. Points 1-3 made by the Editor Natalie Pafitis have been changed in the manuscript highlighted in track changes.

Response to Reviewer: Marina Bosque Prous, Ph.D (Associate Editor)

1. Thank you for pointing out grammatical mistakes; these have been rectified, along with other errors, as highlighted with tracked changes.

2. We have modified the description of non-drinkers in the following way, providing a reference which suggest that ‘non-drinkers’ is an umbrella term for former drinkers, lifetime abstainers and occasional drinkers:
Non-drinkers were also asked if they drank occasionally, which we refer to as ‘occasional drinkers’. Non-drinkers have found to be a heterogeneous group, consisting of lifetime abstainers, former drinkers and occasional drinkers [22]. In addition, to explore periodic abstinence, we also examined changes in the prevalence of not having an alcoholic drink in the past week.

We have also slightly modified the research question, referring to abstaining in the past week, as ‘periodic abstinence’.

3. We have indicated that the numbers are percentages in the title of Tables 1-3, and made changes to the number in the tables to make the format consistent such as removing the ‘%’ signs on one table, and inserting a comma to denote a thousand in the sample sizes (N).

4. We have now added the correlation co-efficient to figure 2.

5. Thanks for spotting this mistake. We have changed it accordingly.