Reviewer’s report

Title: Predicting hazardous drinking in late adolescence/young adulthood from early and excessive adolescent drinking - A longitudinal cross-national study of Norwegian and Australian adolescents

Version: 1 Date: 27 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Marina Bosque Prous

Reviewer's report:

Although the manuscript is a potentially valuable piece of work, there are still some concerns that need to be addressed:

1) The final sample from Norway included around 30% of the participants in the first wave. Besides, the attrition analyses conducted found that the dropout was predicted by low maternal education level and being male. This is an important limitation, not only because the representativeness of the sample is at stake, but also because gender and education level are related to alcohol drinking and this fact could have influenced the results found and the cross-country comparisons.

2) The authors should discuss the different finding related to the family variables. As stated in the previous comment, dropout in Norway was higher in the low maternal education level and I could have driven the results.

3) Most of the results compare the findings in both countries. However, most variables were created from different questions in both countries and are not easily comparable. In this sense, it is important that the authors highlight it and do not emphasize so much these differences.

4) The question related to excessive drinking is different in both countries: 5 drinks in Norway and 6 drinks in Australia. When comparing the findings related to this variable and "drinking larger amounts" variable, the authors should discuss in more detail how this fact is influencing the findings. Are the results in both countries comparable?

5) I suggest the authors to add a table summarizing the sample characteristics of the sample from Norway and the one from Australia.

6) As in table 1 the authors are estimating the prevalence of alcohol use, it would be advisable to include the 95% confidence intervals for each variable. It is possible that in some cases the differences are not statistically significant.

7) In table 2, there seem to be a wrong number in the Australia sample for the variable alcohol and drug use in the family.

8) In table 3, there is a word missing in the title. It should say "hazardous drinking".
9) I suggest combining tables 2 and 3 to have the crude and adjusted models in the same table and, therefore, facilitate the comparisons to the readers.

**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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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