Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact of snus use in teenage boys on tobacco use in young adulthood. A cohort from the HUNT Study Norway.

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We have enclosed our point to point response below, and hope that our answers meet the outstanding requirements. Our manuscript is without track changes and highlighting.

Point to point response
Reviewer 2
Yes, we agree that the loss of smokers to our study population should be mentioned and concretized in the discussion. We have written:
A higher prevalence of smoking was found among those not attending follow-up, especially among the older age smokers. Corresponding differences were small for snus users and dual users. Thus, a selection of too few, and perhaps less vulnerable smokers in our study population may have taken place. One implication of this is possibly an underestimation of the transitions to smoking and dual use in adulthood, rather than the opposite.

The additional analyses We have added two sentences in the Results as follows:

In additional analyses where participants with inconsistent answers were removed, the main results were confirmed, but with larger effect size of the transitions to tobacco use at follow-up. The effect size of the transitions from tobacco use to no tobacco use decreased when inconsistent answers were removed (data not shown).

In the Discussion, we replaced this sentence “As our tobacco use included both daily and occasional use, an overestimation of occasional tobacco use at baseline may have led to an underestimation of the increase in tobacco use from adolescents to adults.” with these two sentences: “Those with the lowest levels of occasional use may have been more likely to forget about it. In an additional analysis where the inconsistent records were removed, we found an
increase in the effect size for tobacco use transitions, indicating low levels of tobacco use among those with inconsistent answers.