Reviewer’s report

Title: Quantifying harms to others due to alcohol consumption in Germany: a register-based study

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Sarah Callinan

Reviewer's report:

This is a clearly written paper that provides populations estimates for a range of harms attributable to the drinking of others in Germany. While I have some concerns about some of the assumptions used in the estimates of FAS and FASD I think that overall the paper is a worthwhile addition to the literature.

Abstract

The first line is a bit awkward.

Introduction

P3 L21: consider another word to replace 'drunks'
P5 L51: which form of accident . . . is awkward and should be rephrased
P5 L53: non-linearly doesn't mean a lot without some further information on the relationship.
Broadly speaking, the introduction covers a broad range of types of harms attributable to the drinking of others and a rationale for reducing the focus of your study to three specific types of harm is missing.
Furthermore, some more clarity on what you are focusing on for assault and car accidents, that is who in each scenario is or isn't drinking, would be beneficial.

Method

P7: I’m concerned about the use of any alcohol consumption as a predictor for FAS and FASD - while this is based on a previously published method, the limitations of this should be more explicitly acknowledged
P7: Why were unpublished rates of drinking during pregnancy used? I've found published rates of consumption during pregnancy such as in this paper https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3607897/ where the prevalence of consumption during pregnancy appears to be much lower.
P9 L25: How much did the results taken from 14 countries used in your AAFs vary between countries?

Results

The results are clearly presented and easy to read and understand
Discussion

P11 L20: This paragraph here touches on the framing and decisions surrounding the chosen harms that might be better suited to the introduction.

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.

Not applicable

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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