Author’s response to reviews

Title: Time trends of non-alcoholic beverage consumption among adults in Germany, 1990-2011

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear associate editor,

We thank you for the comments and revised the result section and inserted an additional limitation in the discussion section. The detailed response is given below. Changes in the text are highlighted in yellow.

Associate Editor:

Thank you for thoroughly addressing the reviewers' comments. However, there are several issues that remain, and therefore require further attention.

I agree with reviewers #1 and #3 that the results section presents too much detail, which makes it challenging to follow. The authors can adhere to the journal’s submission guidelines regarding the presentation of p-values and statistical inference without describing all of the findings at this level of detail. The main findings of the study do get lost in all of the detail, so there remains a need to draw out these main findings for the reader. I appreciate that this is challenging, given that Reviewer #3 also suggested adding more detail to the Results section, but I believe their comment was intended to bring the attention paid to coffee results into proportion with the attention paid to the other beverages. This can be achieved without adding substantially more detail to the manuscript by providing proportional coverage of the main findings for all beverages.
Response: We revised the result section and deleted detailed information on occasional and non-consumption of non-alcoholic beverages, which are already available in Table 1. We focused on the trends of frequent consumption and revised the sentences in line 196-247, which shortened this paragraph.

In accordance with the suggestion provided by Reviewer #3, please indicate in the limitations section that the data did not allow for differentiation of fruit juice by percent fruit.

Response: We added the following sentence in line 316-219: “Furthermore, fruit juices have different contents in fruit, water and sugar, but this restriction was not specified in the earlier surveys. Therefore, the data did not allow for differentiation of fruit juice by percent fruit content. This limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the analyses.”