Reviewer's report

Title: Physical activity and the prevention, reduction, and treatment of alcohol and/or substance use across the lifespan (The PHASE review): protocol for a systematic review.

Version: 0 Date: 03 May 2017

Reviewer: Ram Bajpai

Reviewer's report:

Authors have well prepared the review protocol, however, the clarity on the following points would add more value to this review:

1. It is not clear about the selection of the report from health surveys conducted at regional/nation level by any country related to the alcohol & addiction for a given time-period.

2. Authors need to specify their strategy about the estimation & re-estimation cross-sectional studies.

3. I suppose authors missed to report PROSPERO registration in the methodology section. Please add at appropriate place.

4. Kindly also mention that how many times reviewer would contact to the author to seek specific information if required in a study.

5. Please also add that what proportion of the literature will be used to check the inter-rater agreement and what will be the minimum cut-off for that agreement.

6. It is also possible that some of the studies report standard error or 95% CI for mean instead of standard deviation. So, it is not clear that it'd be considered as missing data or it'd imputed by some appropriate methodology.
7. Please add reference(s) to the 'Assessment of statistical heterogeneity' section and also define the levels of heterogeneity considerations.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field that should be highlighted to relevant networks

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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