Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Predictors of aging out of heavy episodic drinking in emerging adults: a systematic review protocol.

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**Version:** 1  **Date:** 01 Feb 2019

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER

Reviewer #2:

A very clear and well-written protocol.

Thank you.

There are a few minor points to be addressed:

Background, p.5, lines 8, 10, 14, 16, and 17
Please correct references, these should be numbered within the text.

This has been corrected.

Background, p.6, line 5
Indent first line
This has been corrected.

Background, p.6, line 18
Suggest transition phase such as, "In addition, the expectancies an individual has..."

Thank you for this example. We have adopted it.

Background, p.6, line 22
Suggest changing the word identified (to recommended or suggested?) as the word identified is used twice in this sentence.

This has been corrected.

Methods, p.8, Search Strategy
Please clarify whether a librarian was involved in the development of your search strategy.

Methods, p.8, line 16
Do you have any concerns that by searching ("young adults" OR "emerging adults") you will be missing studies? For example, I am wondering about using terms such as "university student" or "college student" or even "student" more generally (as you will include studies with participants as young as 14). If your confidence in the existing search is based on pilot searches, or ensuring that the search captures studies that you have already identified, please comment on this.

Methods, p.8, Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
Please note whether the review will include only studies published in English, and whether you will include any language limits (if so, mention this within the Search Strategy).

Thank you for your comments and suggestions regarding our search strategy. In response to your comments and suggestions, we have added clarification regarding the use of a librarian, expanded our search terms (including the use of student as a subject heading and/or key term), and noted that there will be no language restrictions.

Please refer to Methods, p. 7, lines 8 to 18.
“Existing primary research will be identified and retrieved from OVID MEDLINE In-Process (1946 to present), EMBASE (1974 to present), PsycINFO (1806 to present), and CINAHL databases. The search will involve all related subject headings and key terms associated with emerging adulthood (e.g. young adult* OR emerging adult* OR student OR adolecsen*), alcohol use, and longitudinal designs (e.g. longitudinal, growth mixture modeling, group-based trajectory modeling). The final search strategy will be developed in collaboration with a university librarian to ensure a maximally inclusive search strategy; the search will be initially mapped in EMBASE and then adjusted for other databases. We will also manually explore the citations of included primary studies and reviews to identify relevant articles omitted by search results and contact authors for further information and data when appropriate. No restrictions will be placed on language.”

Methods, p.10, line 20
Excel should be capitalized.

This has been corrected.

Methods, p.11, line 1
Suggest clarifying what is meant by the term "minority group" - this is unclear.

This has been clarified and that term has been dropped.

Methods, p.12, line 9
Add period between the words "acceptable" and "We".

This has been corrected.

References
References are not in the correct format. In particular, note placement of publication year, ensure article titles are not capitalized (except for first word and proper nouns), and correct page formatting (e.g. 841-8 not 841-848). In addition, the author name should be corrected for references 1 and 2.

These issues have been corrected.

Additional Modifications
In addition to the corrections noted above, we have also clarified and expanded our discussion of risk of bias, data synthesis and interpretation, and quality assessment and presentation.