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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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER

Abstract/Methods
Line 11. Where: "A systematic search of longitudinal studies…” should be "A systematic search of observational cohort studies …". Please, revise.

This change has been made.

Line 14. Please include study outcomes. For example: "Primary outcomes will be quantity or frequency of alcohol consumed (e.g. drinks per week, drinks per month, or percentage of drinking days) and severity of alcohol-related problems".

This change has been made.

Background

Page 7. Line 10. Please, delete the word "Objectives".
Methods/Data synthesis

Page 11 Line 9. Please delete "and Interpretation".
This deletion has been made.

Page 12. Line 15. Where: "When there are at least 5 studies identified for a pooled effect estimate, the change in published effect sizes over time will be evaluated by performing a meta-regression (...) should be "Where there are at least 10 studies (...)". Please, revise according to current standards (it is recommended to consider 10 studies for each variable”).
This change has been made throughout.

Page 12. Line 21. Please delete "and Presentation".
This deletion has been made.

Page 13. Lines 6-11. Please, delete: "The process of article selection will be illustrated in a flow diagram indicating reasons for exclusion. A summary of risk of bias assessments, study characteristics, and individual study details will be provided in separate tables. The possibility of conducting a meta-analysis on included studies will be determined during the review process, and where it is pursued, the quantitative results will be presented in a forest plot. Potential publication bias will be evaluated as described above, and presented in an Egger's funnel plot."
This deletion has been made.

Page 13. Lines 3-6 should be removed from this section. A revised text should be placed in the first paragraph of Methods section (p.7, line 8 before "Search"), including PROSPERO registration numbr. For example: "The present protocol has been registered within the PROSPERO database (registration number: xx) and is being reported in accordance with the reporting guidance in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Protocols (PRISMA-P) statement [24] (see checklist in Additional file 1)."
This change has been made.

Discussion

Please, include text in p.13 line 5 in revised form in the Discussion section p.14, as follows: "The proposed systematic review will be reported in accordance with the PRISMA statement [17]. Any amendments made to this protocol when conducting the study will be outlined in PROSPERO and outlined in the final manuscript".
This text has been added.