Reviewer's report

Title: Television viewing through ages 2-5 years and bullying involvement in early elementary school

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Reviewer: Hung-Wen Yeh

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The authors examine the associations between TV exposure and “independent” covariates (I would call them “individual” but not “independent” covariates because they may correlate to each), and seem to control covariates if their associations are significant. This approach may not be optimal because weak associations can be significant due to the large sample size. A better way is to control covariates that dramatically alter the effects of TV exposure on bully/victim (say, > 10% change in regression coefficients) if they are added into the model compared to the model if they are not added. However, controlling more covariates than necessary doesn’t harm as long as they don’t raise a red flag of collinearity.

For the issue of collinearity, the authors report Pearson’s correlation between continuous variables but omit the associates with/between categorical covariates, which can be evaluated by differences in means across categories or odds ratios. However, these pair-wise associations do not take into account the associations with the other covariates that are also controlled in the adjusted models. A better and more direct assessment is to use a measure known as variance inflation factor, which can be calculated for dummy variables of categorical characteristics so they are not left out.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no conflict of interest.