Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of cognitive susceptibility to smoking among Mexican origin youth residing in Houston, Texas

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Reviewer: Thomas Valente

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Correlates of Cognitive Susceptibility to Smoking among Mexican Origin Youth Residing in Houston Texas.

This paper provides an analysis of factors associated with susceptibility to smoking among children of Mexican origin in Texas. Susceptibility to smoking has been validated as a measure which has strong predictive ability on future smoking so it is helpful to understand its correlates. Many factors were associated with susceptibility in the expected direction. Outcome expectations and social influences such as peer and family smoking were the strongest predictors.

Overall this paper is very well conceived and written, the study excellently executed. I have minor comments on a few of issues. First, I am puzzled by the repeated use of the term cognitive susceptibility and would recommend dropping the modifier “cognitive.” It is an individual construct, but one of its components is social “if one of your best friends offered you a cigarette …” It seems like you could just write “susceptibility.”

Second, the discussion of the logistic regression results on page 11 refers to comparing the participants with two risk factors to those with zero or one, yet I would have assumed from Table 5 that the comparison was to the group with zero risk factors only. Can you clarify?

Third, again, why describe outcome expectations as a cognitive variable (page 13)? Most of the variables associated with susceptibility are social or environmental. Outcome expectations are not strictly cognitive, they are social. The sample item in the paper refers to smoking as gaining popularity. So I would rephrase.

Typo: Page 13 “Mexica54n”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests