Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Eduardo Lazcano-Ponce

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The study addressed a population base in a geographic area with residents of Hispanic origin, to evaluate the susceptibility to smoking in a group aged 11 to 13 years. The results are consistent with those well-known until now, particularly the fact that family influence of peer as well as social permissiveness increase the risk of smoking among adolescents identified like susceptible. Although an acculturation questionnaire was applied, this factor was not associated in significantly as a risk factor.

General comments:

In the introduction, the authors explicit precise values (OR CI 95%) from previous investigation reports. In this respect, it will be more important to interpret them according with the size of sample and power of comparability of the results.

The authors indicate the accomplishment of a study with population base. Nevertheless, they do not describe the initial estimation of the sample size; consequently, rate of answer is not described.

The methods do not specify the inclusion criteria used to establish the Hispanic origin of identified subjects in the study. Variables included in the multivariable model are unclear. It would be desirable to include the description as a reference note under the table. Although there are many variables that are not associated, it is desirable to know their quantified effect in the models.

In table 5, The authors mention a model of accumulated risk. Nevertheless, a variable model was not developed. It is important for the authors to indicate how colinearity was avoided.

The discussion is pertinent, and this is why I recommend a more detailed description of the construction of multivariable models. There is a potentially multiple correlation exists with the aforementioned variables. Which of these were used for inclusion in the variable models?