Reviewer's report

Title: Association of Nativity with Sugar-Sweetened Beverage and Fast-Food Meal Consumption among Mexican-origin Women in Texas Border Colonias

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Reviewer: Jen-Jung Pan

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Data from the 2010 Census showed that 308.7 million people resided in the United States on April 1, 2010, of which 50.5 million (16%) were of Hispanic or Latino origin. The Hispanic population increased by 15.2 million between 2000 and 2010, accounting for over half of the 27.3 million increase in the total population of the United States. Population growth between 2000 and 2010 varied in Hispanic group. The Mexican origin population increased by 54% and had the largest numeric change, growing from 20.6 million in 2000 to 32.8 million in 2010. Mexican accounted for about three-quarters of the 15.2 million increase in the Hispanic population from 2000 to 2010. From public health prospective, it is extremely important to identify pathogenesis of a variety of diseases in Mexican-Americans.

As the authors mentioned, the incidence and prevalence of overweight and obesity have long reached critical levels and mirror increase in the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) and fast food meals (FFM), especially among Hispanic adults and children. The current study aimed to examine the differences in SSB consumption and frequency of FFM between Mexican-origin women born in the US and born in Mexico who were living in the same communities. They reported that US-born women consumed more SSB and FM than Mexico-born counterparts in the same areas of colonias. They further reported that being born in Mexico was independently associated with FFM (fewer FFM) but not with SSB. Overall, the article is well written and is scientifically sound. However, I do have a few comments to make.

Major comments:

1. Recommend the authors comment on the observed differences of body mass index (BMI) between US-born and Mexico-Born women in Table 1.

According to the study, US-born women consumed significantly more SSB and FFM than Mexico-born counterparts. SSB and FFM consumptions have been shown to correlate with overweight and obesity in many studies. In the current study, there was a trend for a higher obesity rate in US-born than Mexico-born women, which is consistent with the observed higher SSB/FFM intakes. Nevertheless, significantly more Mexico-born women were being overweight than the US-born counterparts (p < .001). In addition, there was a trend for more US-born women being in normal weight who consumed more SSB/FFM than Mexico-born counterparts. The authors may want to comment on this paradox.
Minor comments:

1. As the authors mentioned, self-report of SSB and FFM consumption may underreport actual frequency and amount consumed. Recall bias is often associated with self-report measures. In their questionnaire, it is unclear about the duration of diet history inquired. The longer the duration is, the more likely for recall bias to occur.

2. Body weight is determined by multiple factors such as diet, physical activities, and even genetics. What is the ethnic background of the US-born subjects? Are both of their parents Mexican-origin? I believe it is an important question to ask.

3. In the reference article (#64) and in the current study, door-to-door recruitment of participants was conducted. It is unclear about what time when the recruitment occurred. People working on hourly wages might not be at home when the recruitment occurred. This may introduce selection bias into the study. The authors need to clarify this question.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.