Reviewer’s report

Title: Intentional tanning behaviors among undergraduates on the United States' Gulf Coast

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Reviewer: Nick Carcioppolo

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The present study assesses demographic correlates of three types of tanning behavior among students at a university in Alabama, U.S.. The paper is well written and the sampling frame (college students in the Southern U.S.) is under-represented in the literature on tanning. I hope the authors find the following comments and suggestions helpful.

The title and abstract of this paper make it sound as if these data will generalize to people living on the gulf coast of the United States. However, the data were collected from one university and the extent to which these data will generalize to the region is unclear.

What is the purpose of excluding the attitudinal and belief based constructs from the present analysis? As currently written, the manuscript looks only at demographic associations with three types of tanning behavior. The attitudinal and belief-based correlates of tanning behavior are likely much more informative than the simple demographic analysis presented here.

There are some multivariate relationships that would be interesting to assess and useful for future research in this area. For instance, what is the relationship between gender, indoor tanning, and sunless tanning? You state that females are more likely to use ST products than males. Is this true even among indoor tanners? If so, it could present an opportunity for future intervention. Additionally, what about the relationship between indoor tanning, sun tanning, and sunless tanning?

Can you provide information about how this paper differs from national U.S. samples on this topic? Are there any regional differences identified here?

There are other limitations that may be listed: (1) conceptualizing indoor tanning dichotomously (never used vs. have used) lacks nuance. It would be helpful to know just how much of a problem indoor tanning is among this population; do they indoor tan frequently? More frequently than other geographic populations? (2) does this study represent a random sampling of the university population? Some arguments are presented for gender, race, and year. What about major?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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