Reviewer’s report

Title: The importance of social environment in preventing smoking: An analysis of the Dead Cool intervention

Version: 0 Date: 12 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: This manuscript reports the results of a secondary analysis of data from a school-based intervention. The topic of adolescent smoking is an important issue and the more we know about the factors that lead to it, the better we can design interventions. The data is good quality with decent measurement. The analytic methods are appropriate and correctly executed and interpreted. The conclusions follow from the results.

The two methods of analysis are a bit disjointed from each other and the network analysis sort of comes out of the blue. The use of mixed-effects models to account for clustering by class is appropriate but one wonders if some form of clustering by school is needed as well. There is no discussion of missing data except to note there was a "high level" (page 12).

There is mention that randomization was at the class level but it is not explained what randomization was used for and how such manipulation may effect this work. Such information may be in the parent study publications but such detail is needed here.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The authors need to clarify what unanswered questions in the extant literature this work was designed to address. It is not clear from the Introduction what this study was designed to add over and above what we already know.

The issues of missing data and the relationship/impact of the parent study to this work needs to be clarified.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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