

## Peer Review

# Review of: "FOMO clouds and vapor trails: the invisible toll of E-cigarettes on youth well-being"

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The original paper<sup>[1]</sup> has been corrected<sup>[2]</sup>, with the original references five<sup>[3]</sup> and eight<sup>[4]</sup> replaced with two new references<sup>[5][6]</sup>. The text of the journal's correction does not inform the reader that the two original references were fabrications (possibly AI hallucinations) and that they do not exist in the journals to which they are attributed, nor can they be found via Google.

There are two concerning aspects to this.

First, the authors apparently did not check whether their original references were accurate or genuine. It follows that nothing else in the paper should be considered reliable. In fact, the replacement references do not support the original assertions they are meant to support.

Second, the journal has not been transparent with its readers and has issued a correction that avoids the most salient aspect of the error, as if it were addressing a trivial administrative mistake. The use of fake references is much more serious than that. The obvious course would be to deem the paper unreliable and to retract it.

Until journals take a robust stance on fake or hallucinatory references, we should expect to see more of them. For authors, it should be uncontroversial that submitting papers with fake references is a form of scientific misconduct.

## References

1. <sup>Δ</sup>Rosalia Dewi Nawantara, Nur Eva, Laelatul Arofah, Dwi Sri Rahayu, et al. (2024). *FOMO clouds and vapor trails: the invisible toll of E-cigarettes on youth well-being*. doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdae262.

2. <sup>^</sup>(2026). Correction to: FOMO clouds and vapor trails: the invisible toll of E-cigarettes on youth well-being. doi:10.1093/pubmed/fdag007.
3. <sup>^</sup>Huang J, Kornfield R.. (2019). FOMO and E-cigarettes: understanding the impact of social media on vaping among youth. *J Adolesc Health* 2019;65(5):590–7. [This paper does not exist].
4. <sup>^</sup>Roberts C.. (2020). The social dynamics of vaping: FOMO and peer influence. *Tob Control* 2020;29(2):123–9. [This paper does not exist].
5. <sup>^</sup>Sarah Elizabeth Piombo, Jessica Barrington-Trimis, Thomas W Valente. (2023). Impact of social networks and norms on e-cigarette use among adolescents in Southern California: a prospective cohort study. *bmjph*, vol. 1 (1), e000163. doi:10.1136/bmjph-2023-000163.
6. <sup>^</sup>Simon L. Evans, Erkan Alkan. (2024). Personality Risk Factors for Vape Use amongst Young Adults and Its Consequences for Sleep and Mental Health. *Healthcare*, vol. 12 (4), 423. doi:10.3390/healthcare12040423.

## Declarations

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.