Reviewer's report

Title: The influence of nativity and neighborhoods on breast cancer stage at diagnosis and survival among California Hispanic women

Version: 4 Date: 21 August 2010

Reviewer: Luisa Borrell

Reviewer's report:

MS#2127227736362598: The influence of nativity and neighborhoods on breast cancer stage at diagnosis and survival among California Hispanic women

In general, the revised version of the manuscript (MS) satisfactorily addressed the reviewers' comments. However, there are some residual issues that could improve the MS. The page numbers mentioned below correspond to the MS with track changes.

1) Please underscore on page 4 that the Hispanic population is comprised of mostly Mexican American women.

2) On page 4 after listing the excluded cases, please state the analytical or final sample, 37,695.

3) The authors stated in the response letter that the imputation for the missing data on nativity status may bias the results away from the null. This issue should be stated on page 5 and/or the discussion page 14.

4) The authors stated that the neighborhood Hispanic enclave composite index explains 68% of the variability in the data (page 6). For consistency, please state the proportion of variability explains by the neighborhood SES index.

5) In the statistical analysis, please add that the visual inspection of the survival curves was done in addition to formal tests of the proportional hazards assumption (page 8).

6) On page 8, please add the number of block groups the sample was distributed.

7) Given the justification the authors provided regarding the CHIS analyses on Table 4 perhaps this should be your Table 1 to provide background information to the reader of the population according to nativity status. Please consider re-arranging the tables.

8) Please include the sample sizes for US- and foreign-born in Table 4. Along this line, the authors suggest on the response letter that given the data presented on table 4, the row percents could be calculated. The reviewer is curious on that one given that not sample sizes are provided in the table and the data should be weighted to account for the complex sampling design of the CHIS. Always eager
to learn something new :)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests