Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Asthma in Black African, Black Caribbean and South Asian adolescents in the MRC DASH study: a cross sectional analysis.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 22 October 2009

**Reviewer:** Karien Stronks

**Reviewer’s report:**

I am happy with most of the changes that have been made in the revised manuscript. There are two remaining issues in my opinion:

1. The authors state that the possibility of underreporting due to the fact that children from immigrants less frequently use health care services (which might account for a lower percentage of asthma being diagnosed), can indeed not be ruled out. They state in their reaction that this is mentioned in the discussion section (limitations). I could not, however, find this specific interpretation at that page.

2. Cross-sectional nature of the data: although the authors mention the possibility of reverse causality, they seem to suggest in the discussion section, that it applies to the association between asthma and obesity only (p. 14). I would suggest to mention here the association between psychological well-being and asthma as well. More importantly, in the conclusion (p. 16) the authors use the word 'risk factors' in relation to psychological well-being. Given the possibility of reverse causality, this term is incorrect in my opinion. Associates or correlates would be the correct term here.

**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