Reviewer's report

Title: Conceptualizing childhood health problems using survey data: A comparison of key indicators

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2007

Reviewer: Marji Erickson Warfield

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. At the bottom of the first paragraph on page 15, the authors say that the effect sizes of the differences in health status measures range from small to moderate. While this is true, there is really only one result where there is a moderate effect; that is for the variable taking medications regularly.
2. The results discussed on pages 17 and 18 give some of the effect sizes with the percentages but this is not consistent. Also, the findings could be interpreted better by the reader if the results were organized by the size of the effect so that moderate and large effects are highlighted. Putting them all together gives them the same level of importance which diminishes the usefulness of calculating and reporting the effect sizes.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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