Reviewer’s report

Title: Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Among Women in Metropolitan Areas of the United States by Commuting Time to Work and Use of Public Transportation, 2004-2006

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Reviewer: Min Lian

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This is an interesting study. Travel distance/time has been thought as an important barrier to cancer screenings. Several concerns about this manuscript:

1. Why did authors aggregate 2004 and 2006 data together? It is known that BRFSS was conducted annually. Two-year data may overlap to some degree although the percentage may not be that big. Why didn’t authors only focus on the newer (2006) data? Additionally, the title showed “… 2004-2006″. It seems authors didn’t use 2005 data;

2. In the multivariate models, authors introduced individual- and county-level factors. This is a typical multilevel design. Multilevel modeling accounting for random effect among MSAs should be applied to test statistical significance instead of single-level logistic regression;

3. Although authors considered some individual-level cofounders, such as edu, income, health insurance, routine check-up, some other factors which have been reported to be important barriers to cancer screening should also be considered, including employment, comorbidity of chronic diseases, depression/anxiety, self-reported health status, etc. It seems these factors may also be found in BRFSS;

4. For the figure 1, a concise map would be better to show the study area.