Reviewer's report

Title: "Sleep Disparity" in the Population: Poor Sleep Quality is Strongly Associated with Poverty and Ethnicity

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2010

Reviewer: Nathaniel Marshall

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well written paper describing some thorough analyses of data describing the sociodemographic associations of sleep sufficiency/quality in a population-based sample in Pennsylvania. I have only minor comments that could improve the manuscript.

1. Patel's paper in SLEEP 2006 Correlates of long sleep duration relates to this paper and you may want to incorporate it into your literature review?

2. IS PROC SURVEYFREQ misspelled? (Stats section)

3. Poverty isn't just about monetary income. Is it worth simply relabelling this as income dichotomized at the so called poverty line? (optional suggestion)? This may relate to some of your observations about African Americans who may need to work multiple jobs to support their families above the poverty line but to a point where they do not have sufficient time or opportunity to sleep (for instance shiftwork)

4. Should make the provenance of the data clear in the abstract or title

5. A agree in principle with your sleep sufficiency argument. What may help is external validity- does sleep sufficiency repdict adverse outcomes better than sleep duration- can you make that argument? (optional suggestion)

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