The current study aims to examine the degree to which language and residence time in the US influence responses to survey questions concerning self-reported acculturation and physical activity. The current manuscript augments previous research in that cognitive investigations have not traditionally sought to investigate whether qualitatively different types of questions function in discrepant ways, across cultural groups, in any systematic manner. An important limitation is the assumption that the results of cognitive testing can generalize to other Hispanic subgroups. Each subgroup is likely to have different meanings and interpretations of the questions. Additional strengths and limitations are outlined below.

Abstract

- Abstract percentages do not match what is reported in the body of the manuscript
- Important to be consistent in terminology. Terms like residence time and acculturation are used interchangeably; these are not the same construct.

Background

- Perhaps mention that increased measurement error may mask true differences in health behaviors and health outcomes. We need to better understand “true” patterns of PA as a function of acculturation to address disparities. Also, the authors may want to note that to be more culturally competent researchers, we need to use culturally competent measures (e.g., PA measures that offer culturally appropriate activities as answer choices).
- There are sections throughout the introduction (and the rest of the manuscript) that are redundant (e.g., pg. 1st paragraph overlaps with what was stated in previous paragraphs).
- Perhaps elaborate what the authors mean by errors that supersede the translation. The reviewer interprets this as that the “world view” of the translator may be different than that of the respondent or that the construct may not translate in the way as it was intended.

Methods

- Strengths include: 1) involvement of interviewers from the target community, 2) the fact that the interviewers took minimal notes during the interview to
concentrate on the interview is an additional strength, and 3) authors outlined recommendations to interpret interview results prior to conducting cognitive interviews.

Findings

• There were more participants who had less than a high school degree that were classified in the low acculturation/Spanish category than other categories. Therefore, the education level of participants may have explained or at least contributed to the findings (i.e., difference in interpretation of PA and acculturation questions) rather than acculturation per se.

• The example of physical activity: (walking for at least 10 minutes) is a question that people from various ethnic groups have difficulty with, particularly those who from low education backgrounds.

• Although the authors were able to identify many problems, they provided limited solutions. The manuscript would be strengthened if they provide or offer solutions on how to address some the challenges they encountered.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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' below