Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnic discrimination prevalence and associations with health outcomes: data from a nationally representative cross-sectional survey of secondary school students in New Zealand

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2011

Reviewer: Takashi Asakura

Reviewer's report:

The sample size and its national representativeness of the present study are admirable.
Also I agree that ethnic discrimination and health, particularly among youth is an important issue in the field of public health. But honestly to say, after reading this manuscript, I felt that a few points needed to be improved.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The authors examined the associations between health and wellbeing measures and experiences of discrimination for controlling ethnicity, so that we cannot identify the ethnic differences in these associations in this study (Table 4). However, the prevalence of experiences of ethnic discrimination seems to be different by ethnicity (Table 2). To reduce the health disparity among ethnicity in terms of some interventions, examination by ethnicity will be beneficial to public health policy makers and researchers. The target population to be intervened can be detected. According the research by Coker TR. et al. which the authors cited in the reference (no. 5), they uncovered that “there were important differences in the association of mental health measures and each racial/ethnic group (Coker, et al, 2008, p.881). Such ethnic differences in the association between health/wellbeing and ethnic discrimination may be found in New Zealand. Although I understand the purpose of the present manuscript is a descriptive nature, I encourage that the authors should examine the association by each ethnic group, because I believe the authors accessed the quality dataset and have a chance to contribute further to the relevant scientific knowledge by doing so.

2) Discussion section is not satisfactory to me. For example, the authors state ethnic Asians have the highest self-report of being bullied at school, but you do not explain why they are more likely to be bullied. I understand the result is consistent with the previous survey. I expect the readers will understand better by your further interpretation on such ethnic difference.

3) Even if briefly, it is necessary to interpret the findings related to associations of ethnic discrimination to self-rated health, depressive symptoms, health behavior, sense of safety, and self-rated achievement.
Minor Essential Revision

1) I don’t understand what the number below percentage means (e.g. 16, 22). I guess, “95% CI” would be necessary in Table1.

2) In Table2, “95% CI” and “% 95% CI” are mixed. Please check carefully and express consistently in Table2 and Table3.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.