Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of Acculturation and Country of Origin with Self-Reported Hypertension and Diabetes in a Heterogeneous Hispanic Population

Version: 2 Date: 26 June 2012

Reviewer: Joshua Willey

Reviewer’s report:

Major revisions:
None

Discretionary revisions: none

Minor essential revisions:

-This is very well written paper with novel considerations addressed in their methods when it comes to considering the epidemiology of CVD risk factors among Hispanics. Previous papers have tended to “aggregate” (using the authors’ words) Hispanics, when clearly the group is more heterogeneous. The strengths are making an attempt to factor in acculturation and country of origin, and a good framework on how to consider Hispanic race-ethnicity in future studies (especially those focusing on a Hispanic paradox).

-the tables and methods/results mention non-Hispanic blacks, and yet little is discussed about this group in the results or discussion. Is it necessary to include them?

-the main limitation in generalizability is related to the geographic nature of the dataset. There are essentially no Caribbean Hispanics in this dataset. In addition many of the countries of origin have small cell sizes in the tables, making it hard to know the importance of highly educated immigrants from countries with little representation for example. It is however interesting to know the differences of baseline education and SES between immigrants and US born Hispanics.

-minor comment: not sure Puerto Rico is considered a different country

-do the authors have any information on “Hispanic blacks” – this seems important given the new NIH insistence on progress reports of sub-classifying Hispanics as such. My guess is the numbers would be small given the small numbers of Caribbean Hispanics

-this had been raised in previous manuscripts I had worked on: in table 1 is there a potential difficulty with confidentiality when there is less than 5 people in one cell: ie only 1 person who is NHB and does not speak English well.

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