Reviewer's report

Title: Higher self-reported prevalence of hypertension among Moluccan-Dutch than among the general population of the Netherlands: results from a cross-sectional survey

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2014

Reviewer: Amanda Brouwer

Reviewer's report:

The authors are investigating hypertension prevalence among an understudied group of immigrants in the Netherlands, the Moluccan-Dutch. Identifying possible health disparities is a valuable topic of research with findings that have potential to improve health. The introduction is concisely written and provides adequate background information, explained for multiple audiences. Likewise, the methods are appropriate and well described with sound data. The limitations of the study are clearly stated and the authors have acknowledged previous work in which their study contributes to. My recommendations for revisions are as follows:

• Discretionary Revisions

None

• Minor Essential Revisions

Page 4, Line 46-47: The authors write, "acculturation is commonly proposed to be a leading mechanism..". Please clarify what it is a leading mechanism of or for.

Page 10, line 157: Please spell out CBS.

Page 10, lines 141-153: Limitations should be presented after the authors have explained the results and implications of those results. I recommend moving these two paragraphs to the end of the discussion section.

• Major Compulsory Revisions

At the end of the introduction, the authors hypothesize that because of acculturation theory, there should be no differences in hypertension rates, yet the majority of the introduction provides evidence that there may be differences based on ethnicity. This presents an inconsistent flow to the introduction. This issue could be remedied by expanding the discussion on acculturation theory and providing a more detailed discussion of why the authors have predicted that the Moluccan-Dutch group will be similar to the native Dutch when other research suggests a difference. Alternatively, the hypotheses could be adjusted to be in line with the presented argument of the introduction.

Please provide an explanation and/or cited support for why logistic regression
analyses were calculated adjusting for each individual risk factors AND the total risk factors.

Page 11, lines 162-169: The authors introduce the idea that acculturation may have failed for third generation Moluccan-Dutch. This is a plausible explanation, but how acculturation or failed acculturation affects hypertension is not well explained. Please strengthen the explanation of acculturation theory and its effect on hypertension here.

Page 11, lines 163-165: The authors suggest that Moluccan customs might contribute to their hypertension, but do not elaborate on how. Please explain how and what customs the Moluccan might be contributing to higher rates of hypertension as to better support your conclusions.

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