Reviewer's report

Title: Metropolitan-level ethnic residential segregation, racial identity, and body mass index among U.S. Hispanics: a multilevel cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 31 January 2014

Reviewer: Nancy Lopez

Reviewer's report:

The article rewrite was successful and I again recommend publication. I would still encourage the authors to consider including the following:

1. Instead of referring to other race or other race Hispanics, consider rewriting to be consistent with the way the U.S. census refers to this demographic (e.g., Hispanics who identify as 'some other race'"

2. It would still be helpful to point out a major difference between the Census and the BRFSS. A major limitation of the BRFSS is that is a phone survey with a very strict script. The script does not include "some other race" as choice that is read as an option as a matter of course so the data on "some other race" is underestimated and the data on "white Hispanic" may be overestimated.

3. It may be helpful if the authors include simple descriptive statistics on the race-gender demographics (actual numbers of participants) of the BRFSS sample (e.g., Hispanic Men that Identify as White vs. Hispanic Men that Identify as Black, Hispanics Men that Identify as Some Other Race vs. Hispanic women that Identify as White vs. Hispanic Women that Identify as Black and Hispanic Women that Identify as Some Other Race? This would be helpful in terms of assessing whether there is an adequate number of Hispanics by gender who identified as "Black"; "Some Other Race" or "White." While I don't have the statistical expertise do a power analysis of the work, it is not uncommon for the BRFSS to have very small sample sizes for underrepresented minorities. Moreover, the majority of BRFSS respondents (in every racial and ethnic group) are women. I am again particularly sensitive to the potential for very small Ns for racial and ethnic minority men.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.