Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Chamorros

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2006

Reviewer: Lydia Bazzano

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) Introduction: lots of inflammatory wording - points can be made quite clear without use of judgement for or against scientific community. Eg. Paragraph 2: "model minority", "general neglect" Rather than use politically charged terms or terms of judgement, please use "lack of research" or other such

2) Methods: it is not clear if this was a random sample of Chamorros from the Chamorro directory or a convenience sample as is stated in the text. Also, how was the directory compiled since it is part of the sampling frame?

3) Methods: "To sharpen focus...in correlation with..." are you using correlation coefficients? if not, then better describe more specifically what you mean by this - afterall, this language is being used in the section on statistical analysis. If you are looking by subgroups/stratified analyses by gender, income etc., state that. Also, why are you looking by gender, age and employment status, is there a specific hypothesis about CVD risk in Chamorros related to these variables (you say so in the discussion section)? If so, state it here too so the reader knows why you did this.

4) Results: Do not state recommendations by organizations in the results section -- they are not your results. Eg. "According to the National..." or "The AHA's food pyramid..." this stuff belongs in your DISCUSSION section.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) introduction - African-American should be plural since Caucasian is plural.
2) introduction - paragraph 3 makes the case for studying Chamorros - better to put this closer to the beginning of the introduction section

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
**Level of interest**: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**: Acceptable

**Statistical review**: No

**Declaration of competing interests**: 
I declare that I have no competing interests