Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Chamorros

Version: 2 Date: 20 October 2006

Reviewer: Kaumudi Joshipura

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a reasonably conducted descriptive study on a segment of a small minority population. I have the following questions/concerns:

The authors mentioned combining data from BRFSS and The Chamorro Directory International, but it is unclear what if any data was used from BRFSS.

I suggest that the last paragraph in the methods about correlations be deleted since the authors do not examine correlations but rather present descriptive data within sub-groups. Also in the results they should delete the multiple sentences at the end of each paragraph saying what data where not presented, but rather have one sentence in the methods presenting the strategy about what is or is not presented in the results.

I agree with all the other reviewer's comments other than the following:

Bazzano comment 1: I did not find any inflammatory wording. Perhaps this was changed in the version I received.

Tanjasiri comment 5: I do not agree. Having contact information or self-reported information does not necessarily compromise the anonymity or confidentiality, unless one shares any individual person's information or reports it in conjunction with identifiers.

Tanjasiri comment 6: The authors seem to justify that there is no specific obesity criteria for this population and the authors do discuss this.

Tanjasiri comment 7: I disagree. In descriptive analysis as in this paper, the descriptive results as presented are sufficient and p values are not recommended.

The paper does not contribute to any new knowledge in terms of Biology, the findings are not generalizable, and there are no age-adjusted comparisons with other populations. However, this paper may be an important first step towards programs to improve the health of the Chamarro community. I believe the paper is publishable as a brief descriptive report, but whether such a report is suitable for BMC is up to the editors to decide.

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

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)