Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of depression among youth in California: Findings from the 2003 California Health Interview Survey

Version: 3 Date: 30 November 2006

Reviewer: Benjamin Vicente

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)

It is a reasonably well written article reporting on a secondary analysis of information collected in 2003 in a population based random digit telephone-survey.

Being one of the objectives the study of Latino Youth population, some consideration need to be offered regarding the appropriateness of making clinical diagnoses over the telephone. Some literature supports the case but there are some voices against it doubting its validity specially in Latino population.

The statistical analysis of the available variables seems of good level, nevertheless the importance of the missing ones (listed by the authors) and the small number in some of the sub-samples limits severely the generalization of the findings, somehow these limitations look critical.

There is an excessive number of tables, perhaps they can be reduced in number or size showing only significant data.

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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)

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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