Author’s response to reviews

Title: Awareness and Management of Chronic Disease, Insurance Status, and Health Professional Shortage Areas in the REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS): A Cross-Sectional Study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Leighton Ku, PhD, MPH  
Associate Editor,  
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June 20, 2012  

Dear Dr. Ku,  

Thank you for sharing the reviewers’ comments and suggestions based on the review of the resubmission of our paper “Awareness and Management of Chronic Disease, Insurance Status, and Health Professional Shortage Areas in the REasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS): A Cross-Sectional Study” submitted for publication in the *BMC Health Services Research*. We were encouraged by the reviewers’ comments on the content of the manuscript and have thoroughly reviewed the paper to correct remaining editorial and copyediting issues. We have listed all of the changes made to manuscript in the order they appear in the paper. Those changes recommended by the reviewer Mr. Bruen are noted parenthetically.  

Thank you again for your review of this revised manuscript.  

Sincerely,  

Raegan W. Durant, MD, MPH
Revisions to Manuscript

1. Page 2, Abstract, Methods section, 2nd sentence: “non-HPSA county residents” changed to “non-HPSA residents” to maintain consistency with preceding reference to HPSA residents.

2. Page 3, Background section, 1st paragraph, last sentence: “accessibility” deleted at end of sentence due to redundancy following reference to “limited geographic access”.

3. Page 4, Background section, last full sentence on page: “increasing physician availability may increase geographic access” changed to “increasing physician availability may improve geographic access” to avoid repetition of the word “increase”.

4. Page 5, Methods section, 1st paragraph, 6th sentence: Abbreviation “CATI” moved up to first mention of computer-assisted telephone interviews.

5. Page 6, Methods section, first full sentence on page: Final “s” deleted from “University of Alabama at Birmingham Institutional Review Boards”.

6. Page 7, Methods section, first full sentence on page: “primary care geographic HPSA” changed to “geographic primary care HPSA” to be consistent with other references throughout manuscript.

7. Page 7, Methods section, last full sentence on page (Bruen): “with” deleted from “Models for with each target disease category . . . “; In the same sentence, “the” added prior to “presence of one or both of the other target diseases”.

8. Page 8, Methods section, 1st paragraph on page: Changed numeric references from words (“nine”) to numbers (“9”) in text for consistency.

9. Page 8, Methods section, 1st paragraph on page, 3rd sentence (Bruen): Corrected sentence with extraneous parenthesis following “and”.

10. Page 9, Results section, last full sentence on page (Bruen): Removed “Overall” as transition device at start of sentence.

11. Page 9, Results section, 1st sentence on page (Bruen): Changed wording slightly to clarify meaning. Substituted “residents” for “residence”. Also replaced “for” with “among”.

12. Page 9, Results section, 3rd sentence on page (Bruen): Changed from “HPSA residents did have significantly higher odds” to “HPSA residents had significantly higher odds”.

13. Page 9, last paragraph of Results section, 2nd to last sentence in paragraph: “only” repositioned to clarify that finding was found exclusively among HPSA residents with diabetes.
14. Page 9, Discussion section, last paragraph on page, 2nd sentence in paragraph: Sentence reworded to highlight, specifically, higher awareness and similar treatment among HPSA residents with hypertension and hyperlipidemia.


16. Page 11, Discussion section, 1st full paragraph, 2nd sentence in paragraph (Bruen): Removed extraneous comma following “paradoxical”.

17. Page 11, Discussion section, last full sentence on page: Changed “enjoyed by” to “available to”

18. Page 12, Discussion section, 1st full paragraph, 1st sentence in paragraph (Bruen): Removed extraneous “and”

19. Page 12, Discussion section, 1st full paragraph, 1st and last sentences in paragraph: Added wording in each sentence to clarify comparisons

20. Page 12, Discussion section, last full sentence on page (Bruen): Changed “providers are guideline adherent” to “providers adhere to guidelines”

21. Page 13, Discussion section, 1st full paragraph, 3rd sentence in paragraph (Bruen): Removed extraneous words from sentence.

22. Page 13, Discussion section, 1st full paragraph, last sentence in paragraph: Reference to the uninsured reworded for clarity.

23. Page 13, Discussion section, last full sentence on page (Bruen): “study is not without limitations” changed to “study has a few limitations”

24. Page 14, Discussion section, 2nd full sentence on page: Added “over time” to specify our inability to account for longitudinal changes in HPSA status in our analyses.

25. Page 14, Discussion section, 9th sentence on page (Bruen): Changed “within our outside” to “within or outside”.

26. Page 15, Conclusion section, last sentence (Bruen): Extraneous comma removed following “should”.