Reviewer's report

Title: Human Resources for Health and decentralization policy in the Brazilian Health

Version: 1 Date: 15 February 2011

Reviewer: Hugo Mercer

Reviewer's report:

The article describes in a solid way the situation of HRH Units across states and municipalities in Brazil. Behind the impressive improvement of the last years, there are still failures. That the article describes eloquently.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

The question is relevant and well defined

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

The methods are appropriate and a detailed information is being provided

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

The data is correctly presented. I would suggest that to analyze a little further the information that table 1 provides. It is impressive that more of 45% of the health workforce belongs to the private sector. Which provides services to only a 21.2% of the population. However the authors do not discuss this shocking situation.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes, but some subtitles will contribute to improve the clarity of the presentation

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

Yes

7. Is the writing acceptable?

There are some typos, and grammatical problems to be reviewed. (pag 4, last para)(pag 8, para 3 and 5), (pag 10, para 1)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests