Reviewer's report

**Title:** Analysis of five-year trends in self-reported language preference and issues of item non-response among Hispanic persons in a large cross-sectional health survey: implications for the measurement of an ethnic minority population

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 19 January 2010

**Reviewer:** Victor Zarate

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a very well written and interesting article that shows trends in population growth and issues concerning the collection of health data from the U.S. Hispanics according to language preferences.

As a minor essential revision, I would suggest to elaborate in the ‘Discussion’ section a couple of hypotheses about why the Spanish-speaking Hispanics seem to differ from their English-speaking counterparts in terms of item non-response for self-reported health status questions. This interesting phenomenon could have significant implications in the design of other health surveys in the future and might need further research.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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