Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Prevalence of Cardiovascular Risk Factors across Six African Immigrant Groups in Minnesota

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**Reviewer:** Charles Agyemang

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Sewali et al. current study compared the prevalence of self-reported CVD risk factors and health behaviors and examined the associations between migration-related characteristics and CVD risk factors and health behaviors across six African immigrants groups.

**Major comments**

Although information on these increasing African populations in the US are lacking, the currently data based on self-reported data particularly on hypertension and diabetes may give false impression about the magnitude of the problem among these populations as the authors rightly alluded to. To make a firm conclusion about the status of CVD among US African migrants, they need more objective measures on both hypertension and diabetes.

I find the authors conclusion from these self-reported data that ‘The implication of this study is that African immigrants taken as a whole in the United States appear to have lower prevalence rates for CVD risk factors and health behaviors than U.S born populations’ very dangerous and might dissuade policy initiatives desperately needed on these populations. In fact, on the contrary, a recent report by Commodore-Mensah et found that the overall prevalence of hypertension among African migrants (Nigerian & Ghanaians) in the US was 53% (males (46%) and females (57%)) (Circulation, 2014; 129: AP176; http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/Suppl_1/AP176.abstract?sid=a4311631-55b2-4a28-90cd-f99be39e0efc: and O’Connor MY E et al also found that blood pressure, fasting glucose, and 2-hr glucose were higher in the African immigrants than African Americans in the USA. (Metab Syndr Relat Disord. 2014 Aug;12(6):347-53).


It is strange that they combined hypertension and diabetes. Small numbers is not a strong justification to combine these. For the very least the authors need to exclude data on diabetes and hypertension to avoid confusion given the weakness of their data.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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