

Reviewer's report

Title: Eye Care Workforce Availability in Enugu Urban, Southeastern Nigeria: a cross-sectional survey.

Version: 1 **Date:** 8 March 2009

Reviewer: Amy Hagopian

Reviewer's report:

This is a good paper on a precise segment of the health care workforce in a district of Nigeria. I've had the pleasure of visiting Enugu (to interview faculty at UNTH on their opinions of health workforce migration for a paper in Social Science and Medicine). Here are my suggestions:

- 1) Change the title to: "An Assessment of the Eye Care Workforce in Southeastern Nigeria, Enugu State"
- 2) The population figures are too precise (the numbers should have the last three digits be zeros), and these figures also don't belong in the abstract. The numbers seem also to be repeated more than once in the text. Percentages don't need to be to the first decimal, either.
- 2) Overall, the language should be revised to be more "journalese," which I have attempted to do for the authors by editing a word file (to be sent separately).
- 3) I think it is fair to characterize the workforce as adequate OVERALL (not "excess," as authors state). However, I'll bet members of the Enugu population don't necessarily feel their access is adequate, despite the numbers. (You know the story about the 6-foot-tall statistician who drowned in the lake where the average depth was 5 feet). More might be said about the Vision 2020/WHO recommended figures, and how crude they are compared to a small population size and geographic distribution. Do the authors have recommendations about changing the 2020 recommendations?
- 4) Authors might want to say more about eyecare worker training in Enugu state.
- 5) I tried to make the financial constraints more specific as to origins in my edits; authors should review for accuracy and agreement.
- 6) It's unclear what the authors recommendation or think about public-private manpower; is private care available to the poor?
- 7) Authors should tell us just a little more about the hierarchy of clinics and the referral patterns.
- 8) Need references in a couple of areas, noted in my word file.
- 9) Tables titles should name the geographical area covered, and give the data source in the caption ("Survey of eyecare workforce conducted in Enugu State by the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital in 2009"), just in case the tables are disconnected from the paper in copies.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.