

Multiracial Health

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Are there racial health disparities “in-between” categories?



Access to health promotion

- Higher incomes, education, and lower rates of poverty
- Net of SES factors, White/Asian or White/Black categories have health similar to Whites, while Asians and Blacks have worse health (Bratter & Gorman 2011)



Social stressors and/or less ethnic cohesion

- Greater use of drugs and alcohol (Chavez and Sanchez 2010; Chen et al. 2012).
- Poor self-rated health occurs among specific sub-groups, especially White/American Indian and Black/American Indian

Is Multiracial Health Distinctive?

Does combining racial groups create a distinctive health experience when compared with counterparts of a single race?

Moving beyond identity: what drives this distinction?

- Are health differences reflecting the ways multiracial adults are experiencing different interpersonal and residential contexts?

Typology of Race Dimensions (Roth 2016)

Identity

Self-classification

Observed (appearance-based and interaction-based)

Reflected

Phenotype

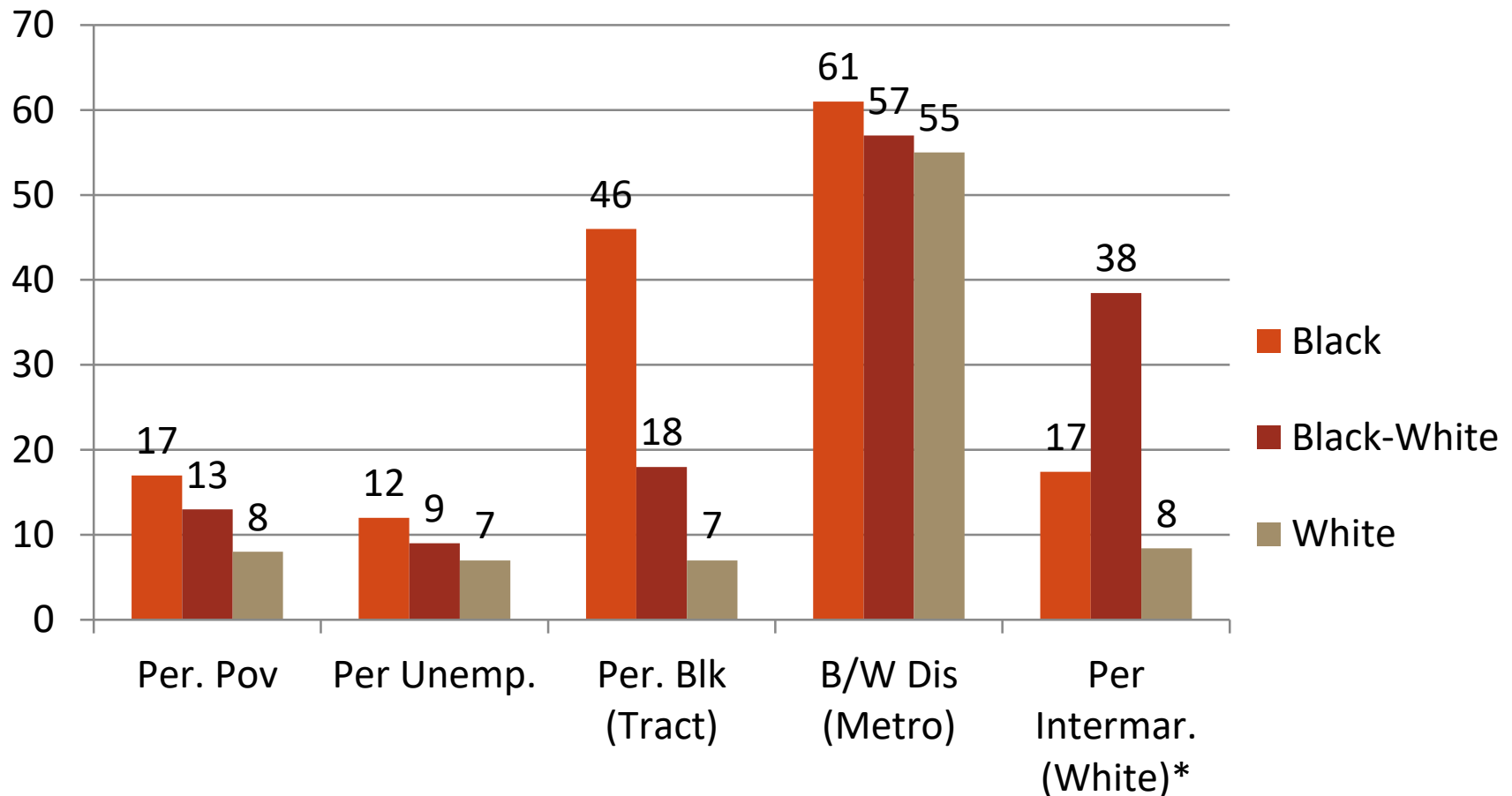
Ancestry (known and genetic)

Table 2. Patterns of Self-Rated Health by racial identificaton

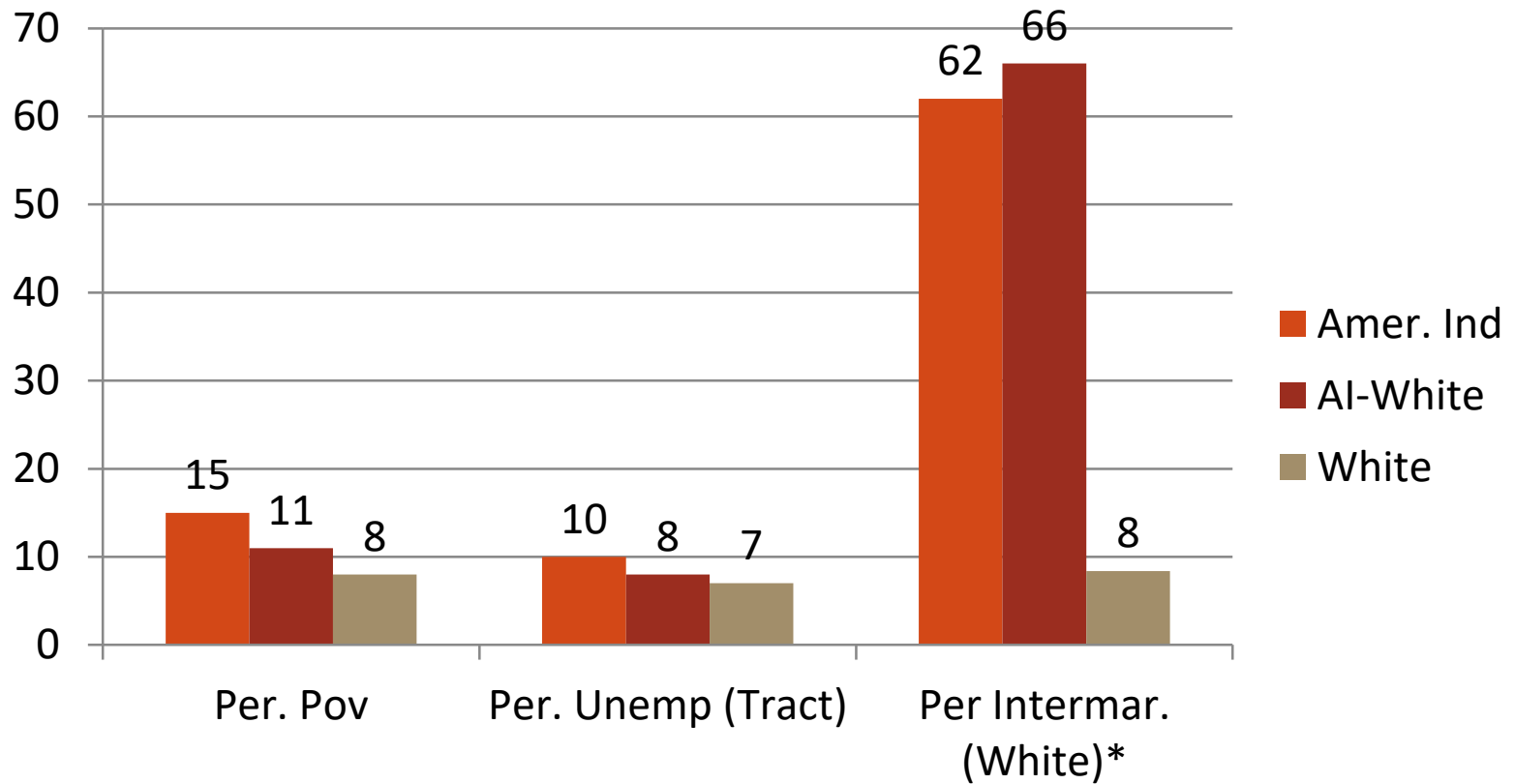
	<u>Proportion Poor Fair/Health</u>
Black	0.17
Black-White	0.12
White	0.11
American Indian-White	0.21
American Indian	0.19
White	0.11
White	0.11
Asian	0.09
Asian-White	0.05
Black-American Indian	0.26
American Indian	0.19
Black	0.17

Adjusted for complex design effects

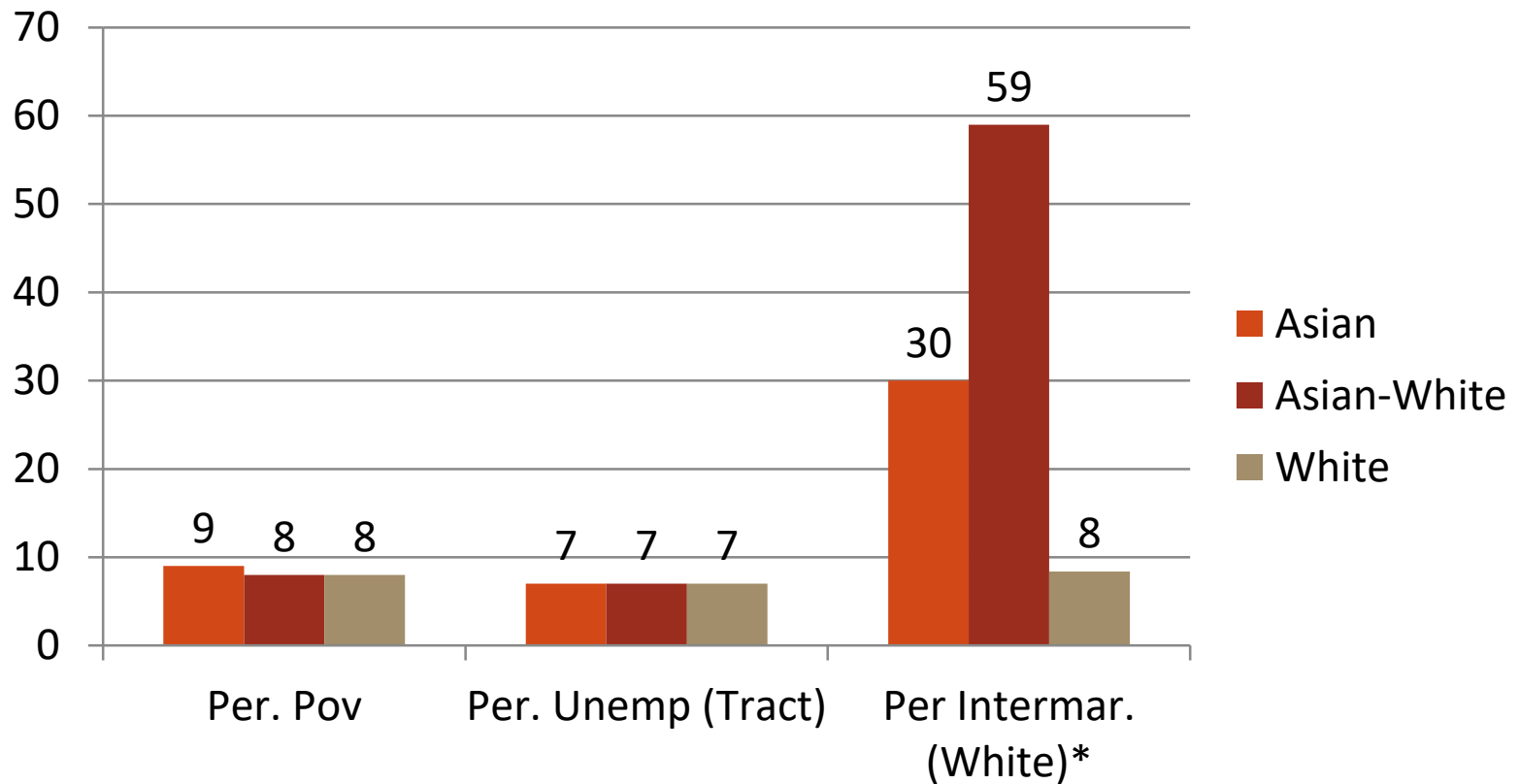
Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (Blacks, Black-Whites & Whites)



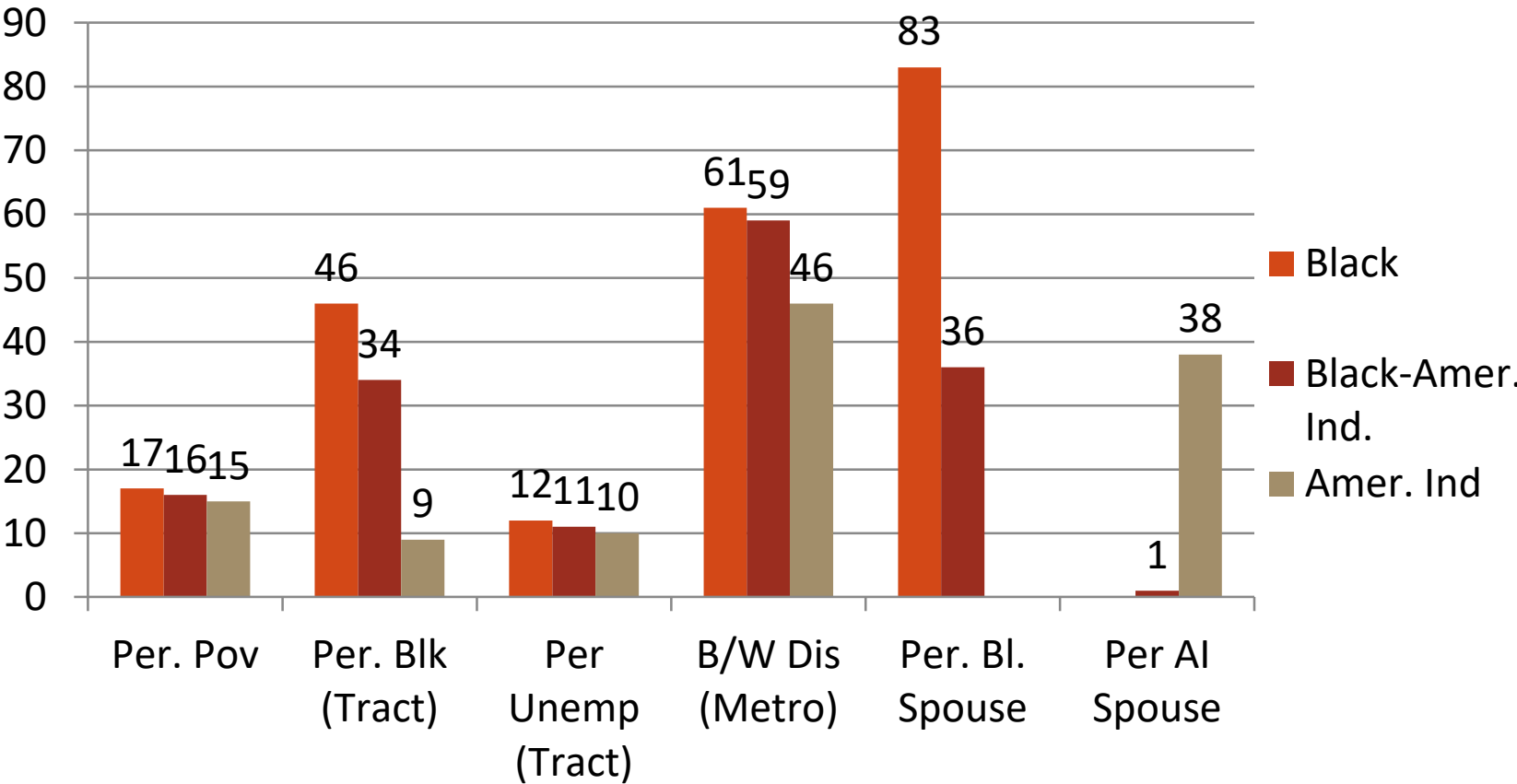
Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (American Indian, American Ind.-Whites & Whites)



Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (Asian/PI, Asian-Whites, & Whites)



Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (Black, Black-American Ind. & American Indian)



Summary

SRH of Multiracial groups is not merely “in-between” monoracial groups.

- Nearly all partially White Multirace adults continue to experience significant health disparities

Family and Neighborhood Contexts matter

- Individuals with a partner of color generally report worse health than those with a White partner or no partner
- Neighborhood contexts are important

But these dimensions do not explain health advantages or disadvantages of multiracial groups