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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Proportion Poor Fair/Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black-White</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Indian-White</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.21</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian-White</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.05</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black-American Indian</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.26</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted for complex design effects
Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (Blacks, Black-Whites & Whites)

- Per. Pov
- Per Unemp.
- Per. Blk (Tract)
- B/W Dis (Metro)
- Per Intermar. (White)*

- Black
- Black-White
- White

17 13 8 12 9 7 46 18 7 61 57 55 38 17 8
Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (American Indian, American Ind.-Whites & Whites)

- Per. Pov: Amer. Ind = 15, Al-White = 11, White = 8
- Per. Unemp (Tract): Amer. Ind = 10, Al-White = 8, White = 7
- Per Intermar. (White)*: Amer. Ind = 62, Al-White = 66, White = 8

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

- Per. Pov: 9 Asian, 8 Asian-White, 8 White
- Per. Unemp (Tract): 7 Asian, 7 Asian-White, 7 White
- Per Intermar. (White)*: 30 Asian, 59 Asian-White, 8 White

Legend:
- Asian
- Asian-White
- White
Mixing Family and Neighborhood Contexts (Black, Black-American Ind. & American Indian)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Black-Amer. Ind.</th>
<th>Amer. Ind.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per. Pov</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per. Blk (Tract)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Unemp (Tract)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/W Dis (Metro)</td>
<td>6159</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per. Bl. Spouse</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per AI Spouse</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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