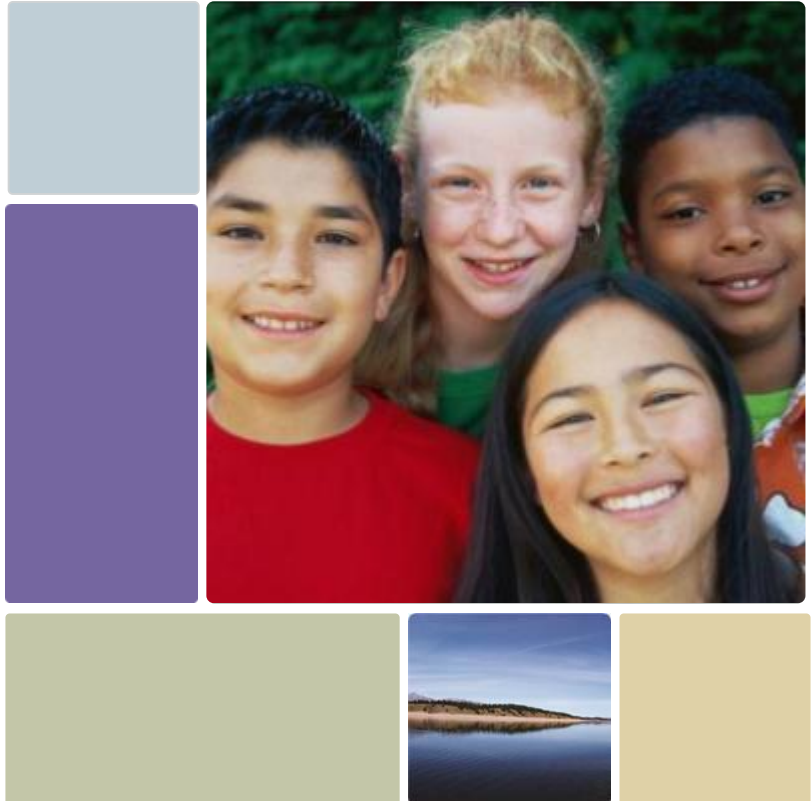




# Measuring the Multiracial Population for Health Research

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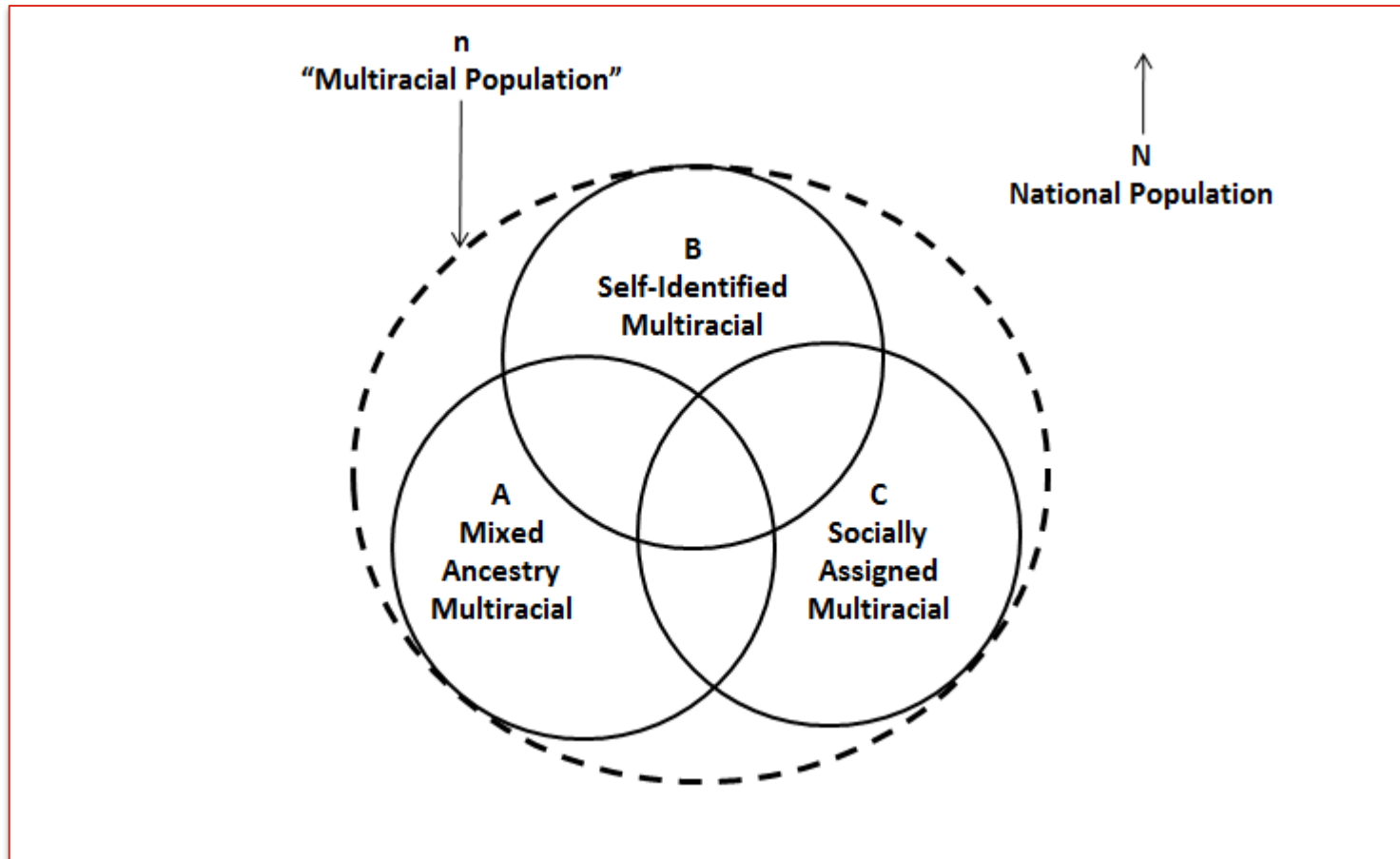


# Background



- Woo et al. (2011). Reconceptualizing the measurement of multiracial status for health research in the United States. *Du Bois Review*, 8:1,25-36.
- Measurement of multiracial status fraught with methodological challenges
  - Conceptualized as a one-dimensional construct
  - Inconsistently defined across studies
  - Fluidity of multiracial status ignored
- Paper aimed to describe multidimensional conceptualization of MR status, identify challenges to measurement, and provide recommendations

# The Multidimensionality of Multiracial Status



Adapted from Goldstein and Morning, 2000

# The Dimensions of Multiracial Status: Definition, Measurement, and Links to Health



Dimension	Definition	Measurement	Links to Health
<b>Mixed Ancestry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Differing racial ancestries in a person's genealogic history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Parents' race</li> <li>■ Genetic testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Genetic variation in gene frequency</li> <li>■ Epigenetics</li> </ul>
<b>Self-Identified</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Self-expressed race</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Self-reported racial identification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Psychological factors related to racial identification</li> </ul>
<b>Socially Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Race assigned by 3<sup>rd</sup> party observers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perceptions of socially assigned race</li> <li>■ 3<sup>rd</sup> party report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Social consequences of race (e.g. discrimination)</li> </ul>

# Recommendations



- 1) Choose multiracial measures based on the purpose of the study
- 2) Examine areas where dimensions do/don't overlap
- 3) Develop new racial measures that capture multidimensionality
- 4) Acknowledge that data are only valid for specific time periods/contexts/populations
- 5) Re-classify Latino/Hispanic origin as a racial category
- 6) Conduct longitudinal studies on multiracial status

# Thank you!



BOLD  
THINKERS  
DRIVING  
REAL-WORLD  
IMPACT

