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Education

- Research training at a NICHD-sponsored Population Research Center (Colorado Population Center)

The types of questions guiding my research:

- How do social factors such as education and race/ethnicity influence health behaviors?
- What are the pathways that link neighborhood environments to health?
- What rural/urban characteristics are barriers or opportunities to healthy lives?
- How can social determinants of health be better integrated into health care?

Examples of federally funded data sets that I regularly use:

- National Health Interview Survey
- National Health and Examination Survey
- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)
- U.S. Census decennial and American Community Survey data
- National Longitudinal Surveys (1997 Cohorts)

Recent Research

Question: How does mortality risk vary across neighborhood disadvantage across race/ethnic groups?

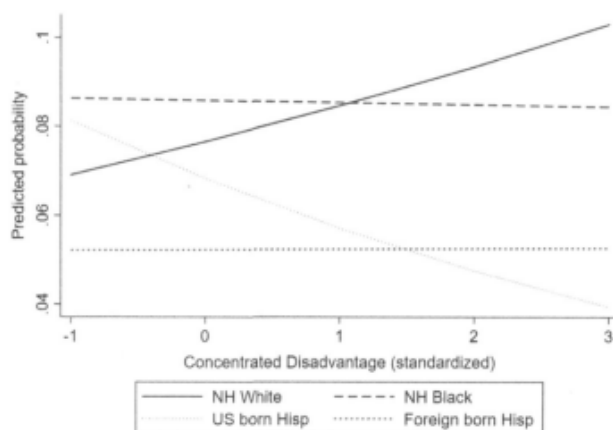


Fig. 1 Predicted probability of all-cause mortality by race, ethnicity, and concentrated disadvantage

Data:

- National Health Interview Survey
- American Community Survey
- National Center for Health Statistics Research Data Center

Findings:

- Concentrated neighborhood disadvantage is associated with higher risks of mortality.
- Non-Hispanic whites in higher risk neighborhoods have elevated rates of mortality risk.

Question: What are the effects of area-level disadvantage on smoking abstinence?

Data:

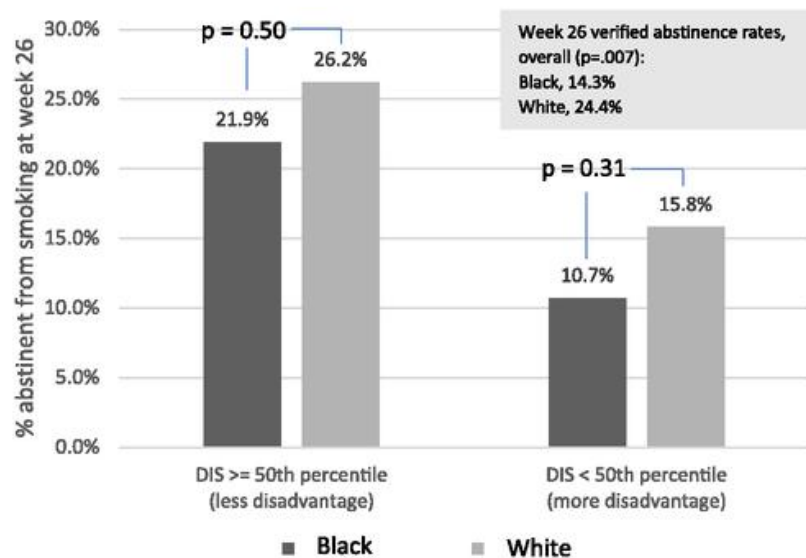
- US Census data linked to primary data collection

Findings:

- Neighborhood-level disadvantage **have similar effects on smoking abstinence** by race groups.
- **Area-level disadvantage explains much of the difference** in Black-White abstinence differences.

Smoking Abstinence by Race and Level of Disadvantage

Black and White participants had similar rates of abstinence at the same levels of disadvantage (Figure 2). Specifically, abstinence rates for Black and White participants with less disadvantage (DIS ≥ 50th percentile) were 21.9% and 26.2%, respectively ($p = .50$), while abstinence rates for Black and White participants with more disadvantage (DIS <50th percentile) were 10.7% and 15.8%, respectively ($p = .31$).



Week 26 Abstinence Rates for Black and White Individuals Who Smoked Stratified by Disadvantage Index Score Note. See the online article for the color version of this figure.