



Director's Report

National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities

September 10, 2021

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Minority Health and Health Disparities
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NIH National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

HHS Appointments

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, MPP

- Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- First Black woman to lead CMS
- Former policy official who played a key role in guiding the Affordable Care Act



Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.

- Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
- Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Served as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Yale University for 20 years



NIH Leadership Update

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research
Stepping down after 29 years



- Will remain in the position while NIH undertakes a nationwide search for his replacement



NIH's Commitment to Ending Structural Racism

- NIH established the **UNITE** initiative to address structural racism in biomedical research with the goal of ending racial inequity.
- Primary goals of the initiative are:




nih.gov/ending-structural-racism


- U** Understanding stakeholder experiences through listening and learning
- N** New research on health disparities, minority health, and health equities
- I** Improving the NIH culture and structure for equity, inclusion and excellence
- T** Transparency, communication and accountability with our internal and external stakeholders
- E** Extramural research ecosystem: changing policy, culture and structure to promote workforce diversity



NIH's Commitment to Addressing Structural Racism in the Biomedical Research Enterprise




Dr. Francis Collins
NIH Director



“Through UNITE and other efforts, we at NIH are committed to taking on structural racism directly. We are in a position to effect significant changes to create an inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment – not only at our agency, but throughout the biomedical research enterprise. Our commitment should be measured not just by our words, but by our actions.”

[Read the commentary](#)



Read the commentary

[https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(21\)00631-0](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(21)00631-0)



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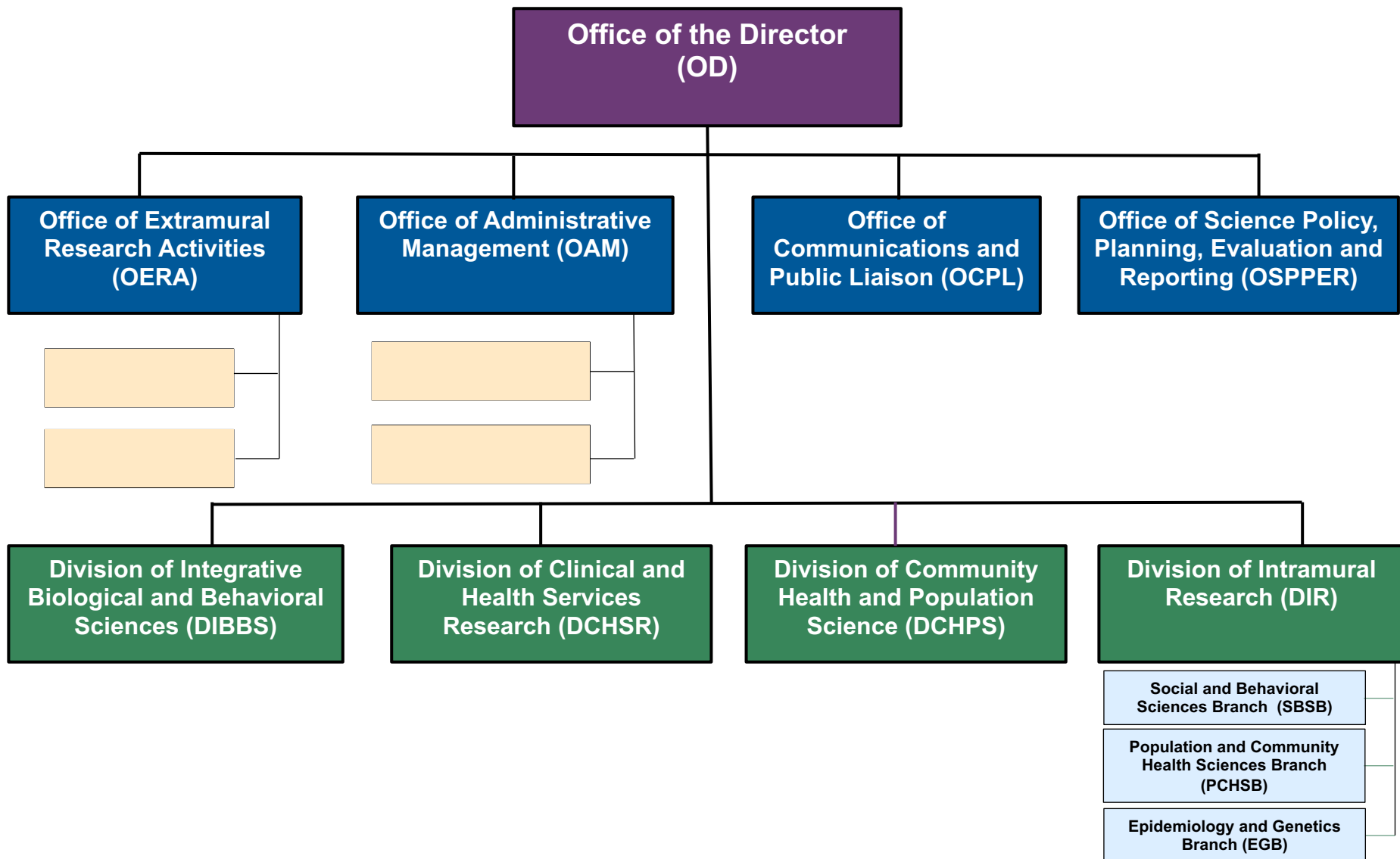
NIMHD Reorganization

Revised Organizational Structure

- Aligns with our goal to advance the science of minority health and health disparities
- Maximizes productivity and increases efficiency and timeliness
 - Research
 - Science policy and planning
 - Communications
 - Administrative services



NIMHD Reorganization



Legislative Update: NIMHD Director Participates

May 26, 2021

Participated in the FY 2022 NIH budget hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on LHHS with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and Drs. Anthony Fauci, NIAID; Ned Sharpless, NCI; Diana Bianchi, NICHD; Gary Gibbons, NHLBI; Bruce Tromberg, NIBIB

June 30, 2021

Participated in briefing for the Congressional Black Caucus on health disparities and CEAL with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and Drs. Gary Gibbons, NHLBI and Shannon Zenk, NINR



NIMHD Staff Updates: New Hires

Office of the Director

- Judith A. Arroyo, Ph.D., Health Scientist Administrator

Clinical and Health Services Research

- Simrann Sidhu, MPH, Public Health Analyst

Community Health and Population Science

- LCDR Michael J. Banyas, MPA, Health Specialist

Office of Science Policy, Planning, Evaluation, and Reporting

- Antoinette Percy-Laurry, DrPH, MSPH, Health Scientist Administrator

Office of Extramural Research Administration

- Karen Nieves-Lugo, MPH, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer



NIMHD Staff Updates: Departures

Richard Palmer, DrPH, J.D.

Scientific Review Officer, Organization: Office of Extramural Research Administration

- Transferred to the National Library of Medicine



Jennifer Alvidrez, Ph.D.

Program Director, Community Health and Population Science

- Transferred to the Office of Disease Populations in the NIH Office of the Director



Nishadi DeAbrew Rajapakse, Ph.D. M.H.S.

Program Director, Integrative Biological and Behavioral Sciences

- Transferred to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute



NIMHD Staff Updates: Retirement

Michael H. Sayre, Ph.D.

Director, Integrative Biological and Behavioral Sciences (IBBS)

- After 22 years at NIH including almost 10 years with NIMHD
- Oversaw a broad research portfolio focused on minority health and health disparities, including research on the potential of precision medicine to address care gaps for underserved populations
- Prior to joining NIMHD, Mike was the deputy director of the Division of Research Infrastructure in NIH's National Center for Research Resources
- Last day at NIMHD will be September 30, 2021



Inaugural Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation Intramural Fellowship Award

Gargya Malla, Ph.D.

- Recently received her doctorate in philosophy with a concentration in epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dissertation: *The role of race, sex and place in the association of diabetes and cardiovascular disease*

- One year program provides mentorship and training from NIMHD's leadership and minority health and health disparities researchers
- Focus on COVID-19-related research, outreach, education and community engagement, including work on the NIH's prominent Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 program



Fellowship was made possible by the generous donation from the Blum-Kovler Foundation through the Foundation at NIH



NIMHD Vacancy Announcements

**JOIN OUR
AMAZING
TEAM!**

NIMHD seeks outstanding candidates to support our vision of an America in which all populations have an equal opportunity to live long, healthy and productive lives.

Learn more at <https://nimhd.nih.gov/about/employment.html>



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2021 Health Disparities Research Institute

- **241** applications submitted
- **62** early-stage career scientists selected to participate
- Participants represented **28** states
- Sessions and activities focused on developing knowledge and skills that will assist early-stage investigators in advancing toward independent researcher careers



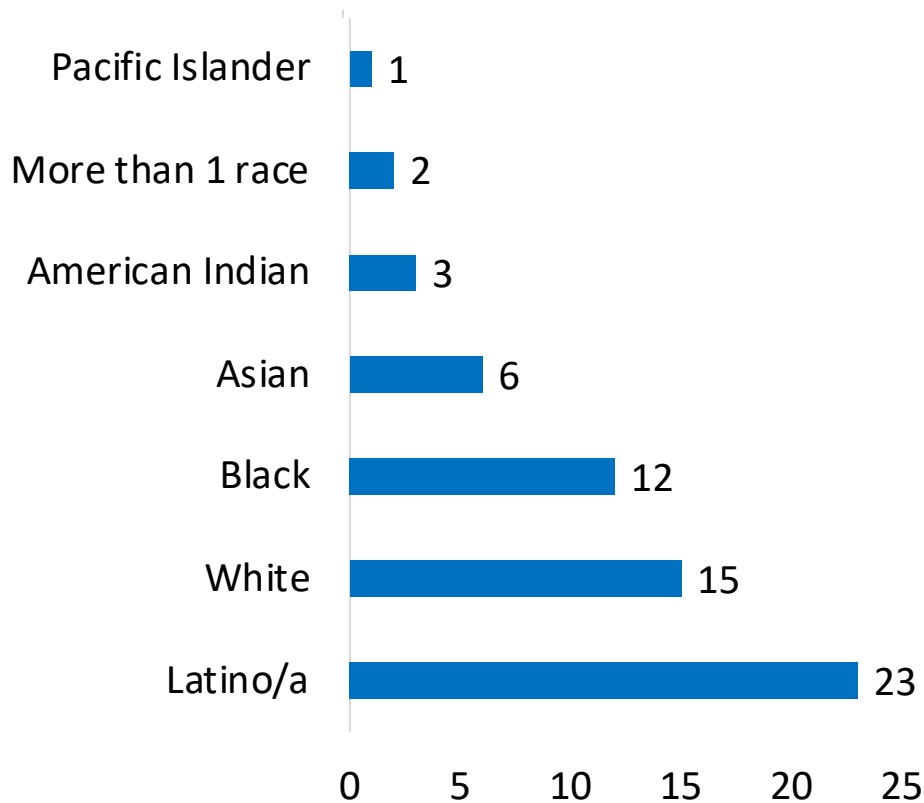
2021 Health Disparities Research Institute



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2021 HDRI Cohort Summary (N=62)



	N	%
Gender		
Women	53	85
Men	9	15
Degree		
PhD/ScD/DrPH	49	79
MD/DO	13	21
Position/Title		
Assistant Professor	38	61
Postdoctoral Fellow	15	24
Other Scientific Position	6	10
Associate Professor	3	5

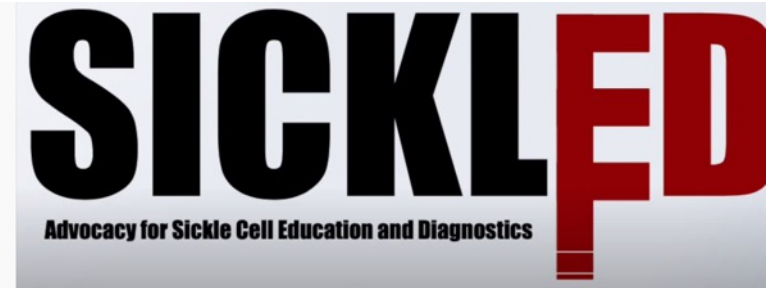


2021 Design by Biomedical Undergraduate Team (DEBUT) Challenge

Annual contest for undergraduate teams to design creative new solutions to emerging healthcare problems

Led by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering with partners from three NIH ICs, and VentureWell

NIMHD Prize: Healthcare Technologies for Low-Resource Settings: \$15,000
Winner: Leigh University



- Developed an inexpensive, point-of-care sickle cell disease (SCD) screening device
- Designed to lower the staggering rate of infant death due to SCD
- Modeled after the common pregnancy test



RADx-UP by the Numbers

85

COVID-19 testing and SEBI projects

1

Coordination & Data Collection
Center

2 million

Tests distributed as of Aug 2021
(includes prospective, EHR, and SYCT)

56

States, Territories and D.C.

>350,000

Participants enrolled (includes EHR)

35

Projects submitting data to CDCC

18

Community Collaboration Mini Grants

9

Rapid Research Pilot Awards

20

Journal articles
(acknowledged RADx-UP project grant #)

First Study Enrollment **July 2020** ► Last Study Enrollment **November 2022**



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Communities Served by RADx-UP Projects

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

 50

Hispanic or Latinx

 17

Pregnant women

 45

Black or African American

 6

Pacific Islander

 31

Older adults

 2

Alaska Native

 28

Children

 2

Native Hawaiian

 18

American Indian

 1

People who are incarcerated

 17

Asian American

Data reflects
RADx-UP Phase I
and II projects
as of 6/21/2021



RADx-UP Return to School Initiative

NIH COVID-19 testing initiative funds additional research projects to safely return children to in-person school

- Addresses the needs of children with unequal access to COVID testing, as well as those facing barriers to attending school remotely
- Five additional projects to identify ways of safely returning students and staff to in-person school in areas with vulnerable and underserved populations



“The new awards reaffirm NIH’s commitment to use evidence-based research to inform policy makers of the safest ways to return to schools in vulnerable and underserved communities”

Eliseo J. Perez-Stable, M.D., Co-Chair RADx-UP



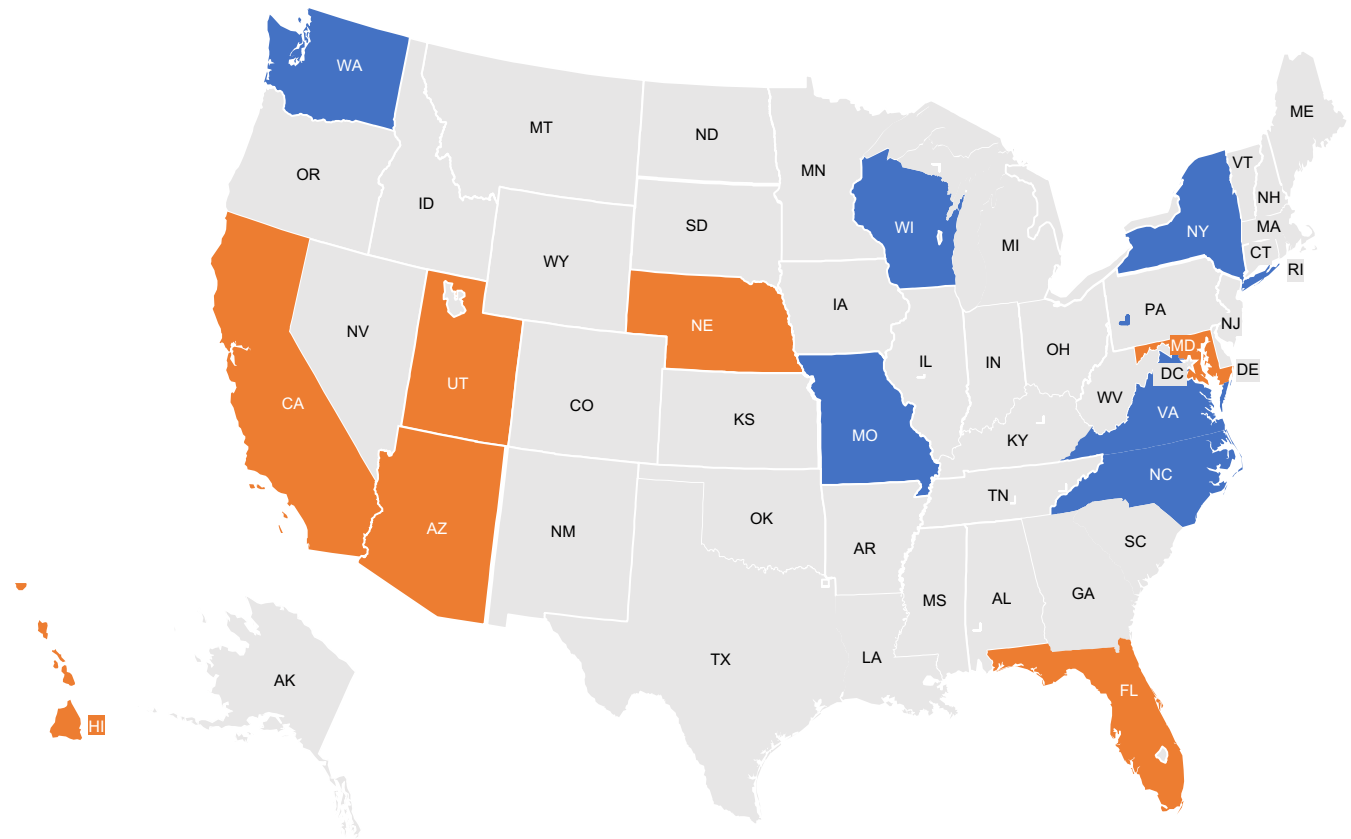
RADx-UP Return to School Site Update

Phase I States

- Maryland
- Wisconsin
- New York
- Virginia
- Washington
- Missouri
- North Carolina

Phase II State

- California
- Arizona
- Hawaii
- Florida
- Nebraska
- Utah
- Maryland



Michael Cohen-Wolkowicz will give a RADx-UP update in the afternoon session



Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities Related Media

Univision Facebook Live: News anchor Mariela Romero moderated a discussion in Spanish about the Scientific Pathway on July 1 with NIMHD Director Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Dr. Katya Corado from The Lundquist Institute, Dr. Jaime Deville from UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, Dr. Olveen Carrasquillo from the University of Miami, and Ms. Emelina Asto-Flores



Univision: White House correspondent Janet Rodriguez interviewed NIMHD Director Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable twice to discuss the Delta variant and the new CDC mask guidelines

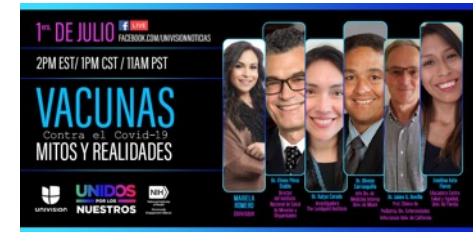


CNN: Reporters Deidre McPhillips and Priya Krishnakumar interviewed CEAL co-chair Dr. Lisa Cooper about COVID-19 vaccination disparities



The Hill: Marty Johnson interviewed CEAL co-chair Dr. Lisa Cooper and MS CEAL PI Dr. Caroline Compretta about racial disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates

Other outlets and organizations that mentioned CEAL include UAB News, Northern Arizona University, KNAU-FM (Flagstaff), Truthout, Reckon South, University of Southern Mississippi, and KHOU-TV (Houston)



CEAL Activities on the Ground: Examples

CEAL Teams conduct a variety of activities to engage communities of focus.



Establish Partnerships with Communities



DMV Youth voices: CEAL teams will engage youth and young adults in advisory roles for message development.



Address Misinformation



MI & NC Crowdsourcing messaging ideas that resonate with the community.



Increase Trust in Science



CA, LA, AL, TN & MI Hosting townhalls with community health workers & professionals targeting at-risk groups.



Accelerate Uptake of Beneficial Interventions



GA's Morehouse School of Medicine holds vaccination Saturdays; >1,700 residents vaccinated.

CEAL Communication Metrics Summary

We estimate CEAL communications have had more than 1 billion views of CEAL materials!

Website



319,215
Web Visits

E-Newsletter



1,289
E-Newsletter
Subscribers

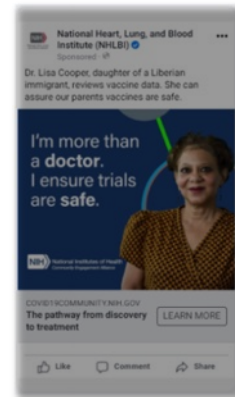
Social Media



52.65M
Potential
Impressions

1.52M
Paid Event
Views

Digital Campaign



51.96M
Paid
Impressions

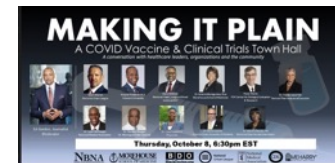
News Media



515.5M
Earned Media
Impressions

368M+
Paid
Impressions

Stakeholder & Congressional Engagement



>1.05M
Views

NIMHD Director

Virtual Presentations

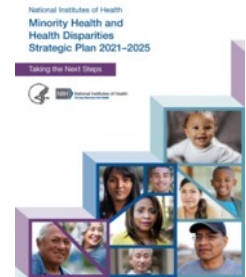
- MedStar Georgetown Surgical Disparities Grand Round
- Harvard University Center for AIDS Research (HU CFAR)
- Reuters Digital Health Virtual Event
- 2021 North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Practice-based Research Network (PBRN) Conference
- National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Summit
- Latino Coalition Against COVID-19 & SaludCon Tech

Blog Post

- NIH's Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2021-2025: A Path to the Future

Podcasts

- [How COVID is Exposing Racial & Ethnic Healthcare Disparities](#)
- [Battling COVID-19 Health Disparities at the NIH: Profiles in Public Service](#)



NIMHD Division of Intramural Research (DIR)

DIR Seminars

May 11, 2021

M.C. Sage Ishimwe, Ph.D.

“Etiology and Characteristics of Abnormal Glucose Tolerance in Africans”



June 8, 2021

Joshua Freeman, M.D.

“Racism, Health Equity, and the COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S.”



DIR Health Disparities Interest Group Seminar

July 13, 2021

Gilbert C Gee, Ph.D.

“Structural Racism: The Roots and Relations of Inequality”





[COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

[Extramural Research](#)

[Intramural Research](#)

[About the Scientific Director](#)

Health Disparities Interest Group

Health disparities are health differences in one or more health outcomes that adversely affect disadvantaged populations. These health outcomes include overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, and survival. Disadvantaged populations refer to racial/ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities. Eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity is one of the overarching goals of [Healthy People 2030](#).

Related

[NIH OIR Health Disparities Interest Group](#)

[Learn more about Health Disparities in the IRP](#)

[Learn More](#)

New Website!

Health Disparities Interest Group

- [Upcoming HDIG Seminar Series](#)
- [Past seminars recordings available](#)
- [Health disparities related events](#)

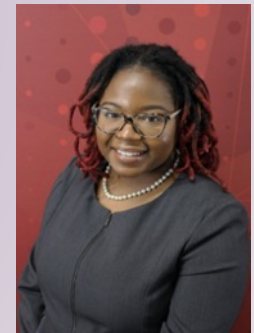
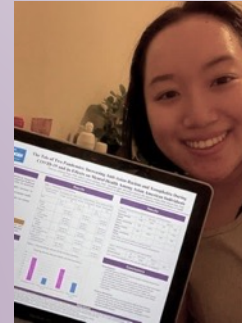
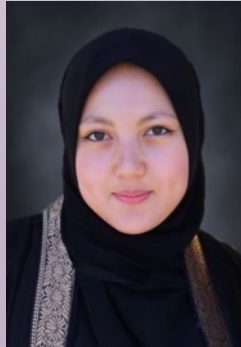


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2021 Summer Research Presentation Week

NIMHD Summer Interns



Summer Intern Presenters

Top Row: Caleb Colbert, Maryam Elhabashy, Tina Liu

Bottom Row: Tuffour Kwaniyah, Sana Rahman, Jacquita Johnson



NIMHD Science Advances



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Impact of Sociocultural Factors on the Kidney Transplant Evaluation Process

- **Research Question:** how medical mistrust and perceived racism and discrimination influence patients with ESRD evaluation for Transplant
 - 528 patients referred to transplant centers in GA (state with the lowest rate of kidney transplantation in the nation)
 - Black ESRD patients referred for kidney transplantation report significantly higher levels of medical mistrust (40% vs 26.4%), perceived racism in healthcare settings (55.5% vs 18.2%), and experienced discrimination in healthcare (29.0% vs 15.7%) compared to Whites ($p < 0.01$)
 - Black ESRD patients referred for transplantation were less likely to initiate the evaluation (49.6% vs 57.9%)
 - Medical mistrust, perceived racism, and experienced discrimination were associated with reduced likelihood of initiating the transplant evaluation
- **Conclusion:** Patient perceived racism and discrimination impede initiation of transplant evaluation among ESRD patients referred for kidney transplantation



Health Literacy (HL) Affects Health Behaviors Among Rural Appalachian Middle School Students

- Limited HL had significantly higher risky health behaviors—drank 42 oz more of SSB/sugar sweetened beverage per day; consumed 1.8 more servings of junk food per day; watched 2 hours more TV per day; had 2.5 more hours of daily time spent on video games and smartphone use—compared to students with adequate HL
- School-based studies are needed to focus on interventions to promote HL & reduced energy-balance health disparities



Medicaid Work Requirements in Arkansas: Two-Year Impacts on Coverage, Employment, and Affordability of Care

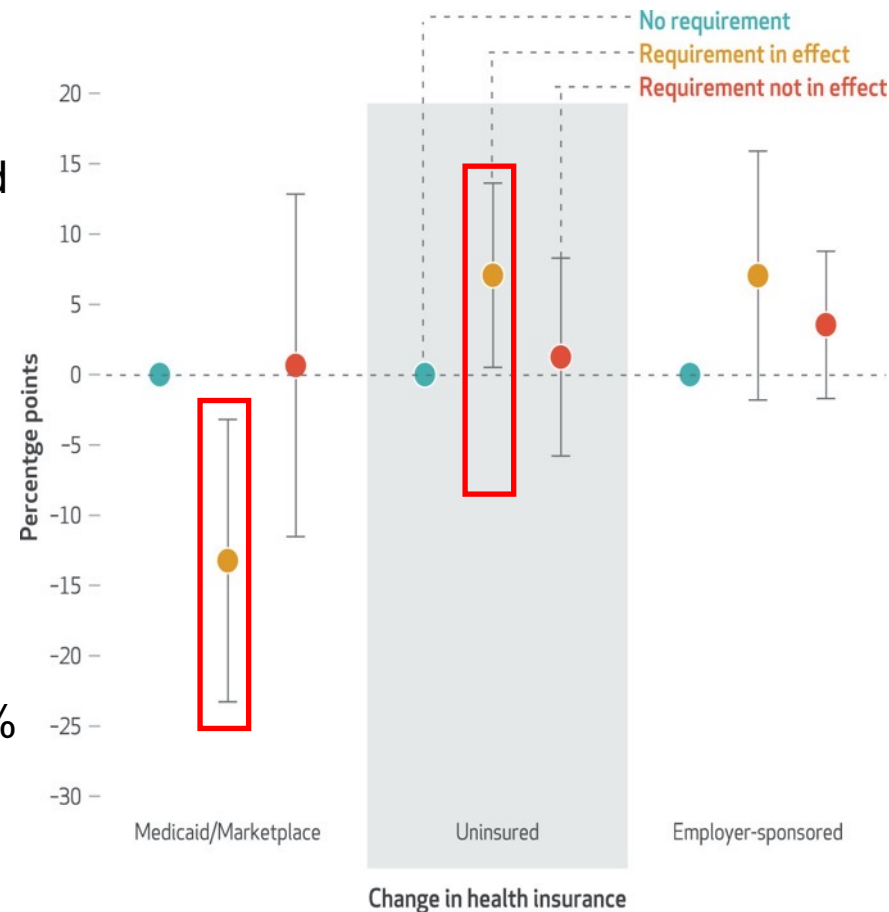
This study examined the second-year impacts of Arkansas's 2018 Medicaid work requirements

Methods: Used cross-sectional survey data from low-income adults ages 19–64 in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas, 2016, 2018, and 2019 (N=8661)

Results:

- Most Medicaid coverage losses in 2018 were reversed in 2019 after a court order halted the state's work requirements
- Work requirements did not increase employment over 18 months of follow-up
- 50% of people in Arkansas ages 30–49 who had lost Medicaid in the prior year reported serious problems paying off medical debt, 56% delayed care because of cost, and 64% delayed taking medications because of cost

Exhibit 1. Changes in health insurance associated with Arkansas's 2018 Medicaid work requirements, by source of coverage



Grant No. R01 MD 014970

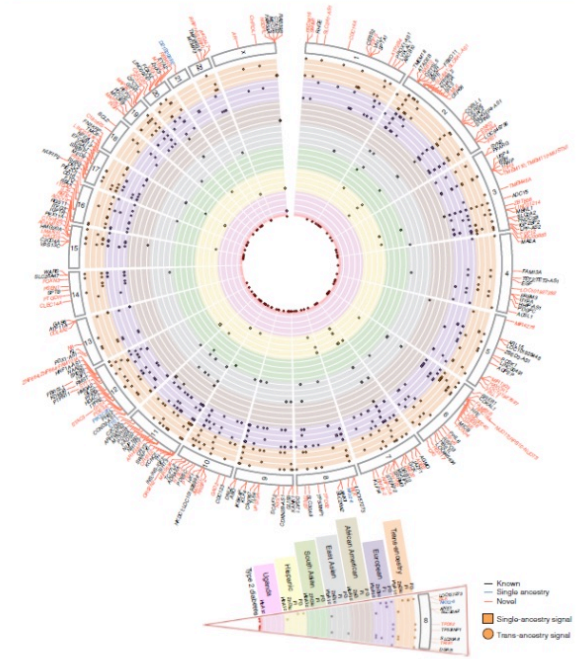
Sommers, B., et al., [Health Affairs](#). 2020.

SOURCE: Authors' analysis of cross-sectional survey data from low-income adults ages 19–64 in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas, 2016, 2018, and 2019.



Ethnic Diversity in Research Identifies More Genomic Regions Linked to Diabetes-Related Traits

- The Meta-Analysis of Glucose and Insulin-related Traits Consortium (MAGIC) coordinated the reanalysis of data from 200 cohorts to identify novel genetic variants linked with blood glucose and other diagnostic markers for type 2 diabetes-related traits.
 - Large-scale study featuring a diverse, multi-ethnic sample (N>280k) with participants from European, East Asian, South Asian, Hispanic/Latino, African American, and Sub-Saharan African ancestries
 - Major research effort including over 400 researchers
 - Study identified 99 new human genomic locations and variations that could contribute to one's risk for diabetes
 - 24 new variants identified due to unusually diverse pooled sample (30% racial/ethnic underrepresented groups)
- Published in *Nature Genetics* and co-authored by NIMHD Director of Clinical and Health Services Research, Dr. Larissa Avilés-Santa, on behalf of the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL)



Supported by NIMHD through the co-funding of HCHS/SOL parent contracts

Chen J., Avilés-Santa L., et. al., [Nat Genet.](#) 2021.



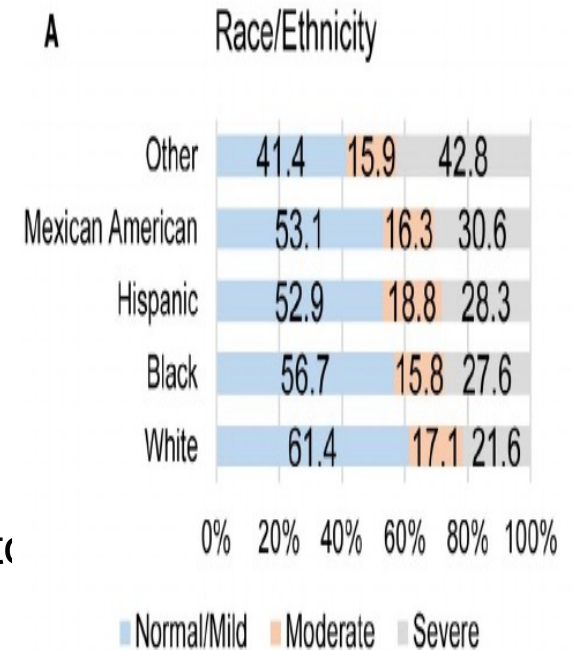
Body Mass Index, Obesity, Body Composition and Mortality Among Black Breast Cancer Survivors

- Association of measures of adiposity with survival after a breast cancer diagnosis among Black women
- Data from a prospective population-based cohort study comprised of 1891 women with stage 0 to IV breast cancer who self-identified as African American or Black and ages 20 to 75 years
- Central obesity and higher adiposity were associated with higher all-cause and breast cancer–specific mortality among Black women
- Women in highest quartile of waist-to-hip ratio and waist circumference had increased risk of dying from any cause or breast cancer and had worse overall survival
- Associations between waist-to-hip ratio and all-cause mortality tended to be more substantial among women with estrogen receptor-negative tumors



Hepatic Steatosis Is More Prevalent in Mexican Americans Than Other Latinos

- Study characterized the prevalence of hepatic steatosis (HS) as (normal/mild [S0/S1], moderate [S2], and severe [S3]) in Mexican Americans and other Latinos compared to other racial/ethnic populations.
- Data were analyzed from 5,492 individuals from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2017-2018.
- Prevalence of S3, the severe form of liver diseases, was highest among Mexican Americans, compared to other Latinos and Whites
- Common risk factors for S2 and S3 HS, included: male sex, older ages, high waist-to-hip ratio, BMI \geq 25, and high triglycerides; for S3 specifically were hemoglobin A1c \geq 5.7 and C- reactive protein \geq 10 mg/dL



Grant No. U54 MD 007586

Shaheen, M., et. al., [Hepatology Commun.](#) 2021.



Diabetes and Health-Related Quality of Life Among American Indians

Study examined functional social support, emotional support, coping, resilience, post-traumatic stress disorder, and health-related quality of life among American Indians with diabetes (DM). Data were collected from the Cherokee Nation Survey between 2017 and 2019 (n=953)

- Participants with DM were more likely to be ≥ 55 yrs old, and have lower income, higher mean BMI, and no college education
- Individuals with DM rated their functional social support and coping slightly lower and were more likely to report ≥ 15 days of poor physical and mental health in the past month
- Participants reporting dissatisfaction with life were more likely to have poor overall health (aOR 6.70; 95% CI, 2.83-15.88), more likely to have more days with poor physical health (aOR 3.28; 95% CI, 1.55-6.95) and more likely to have more days with poor mental health (aOR 8.40; 95% CI, 3.39-20.77)



Associations Between Twitter-Expressed Area-Level Racial Sentiment, Hate Crimes, and Prejudice in the U.S.

- Is area-level racial sentiment, as referenced by Twitter messages, associated with 1) race-related hate crimes and 2) existing measures of prejudice based more traditional data sources?
- 31 million tweets from June 2015–July 2018 were collected that contained at least one keyword pertaining to specific racial or ethnic groups. Each tweet was characterized by sentiment (negative vs all other) and averaged at the state-level. Merged with:
 - Hate crime data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program
 - Implicit and explicit racial bias indicators from Project Implicit
 - Racial attitudes questions from General Social Survey (GSS)

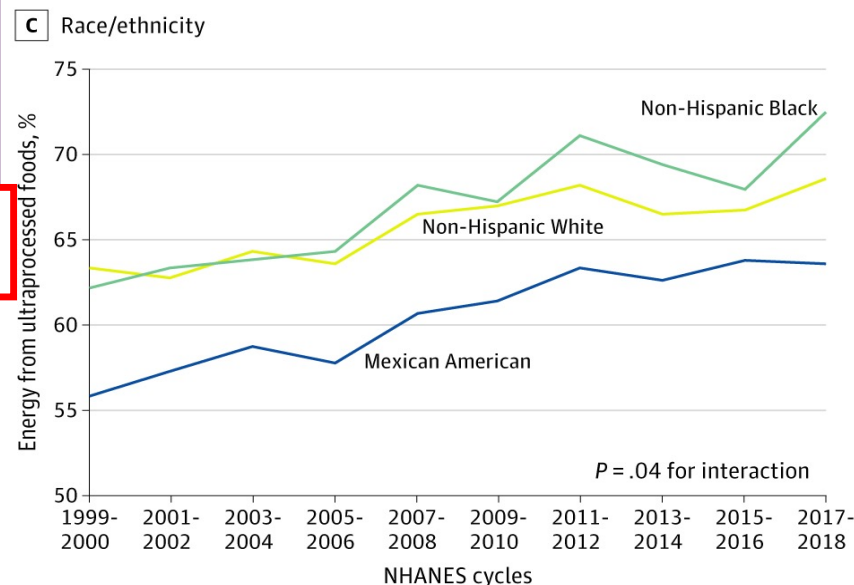
Results: Living in a state with 10% higher negative sentiment in tweets referencing Blacks was associated with:

- OR=0.57 (95% CI: 0.40, 0.83) of endorsing that Black-White disparities in jobs, income, and housing were due to discrimination
- OR=1.64 (95% CI: 0.95, 2.84) of endorsing the belief that disparities were due to lack of will
- Higher explicit racial bias (β : 0.11; 95% CI: 0.04, 0.18); and higher implicit racial bias (β : 0.09; 95% CI: 0.04, 0.14)



Trends in Consumption of Ultraprocessed Foods Among U.S. Youths Aged 2-19

Food/Beverage Group	1999-2000 (%)	2017-2019 (%)	Mean Difference; P Value for Trend
Unprocessed or minimally processed	28.8	23.5	-5.32; <.001
Processed culinary ingredients	2.4	3.4	1.02; .03
Processed foods	6.1	6.0	-0.03; .44
Ultraprocessed foods	61.4	67.0	5.58; <.001



- Trends observed for all ages, for boys and girls, and for all racial and ethnic groups. No differences in consumption were seen based on education or income level
- Ultra-processed foods accounted for greater increases in calories for Black and Mexican American youths compared with non-Hispanic White youths
- The biggest jump in ultraprocessed food consumption came from ready-to-heat and -eat dishes, which accounted for about 11% vs 2% of daily calories in 2018 vs 1999



Assessing COVID-19 Vaccination Intent in Adults Residing in Puerto Rico

- Health Belief Model was used to develop an online survey to assess perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes of COVID-19 vaccination intent
- 1,911 adults completed the survey from December 2020 to February 2021



Overall, 82.5% reported an intent to get vaccinated, 6.5% had no intent, and 11% were unsure. Individuals were more likely to not get vaccinated or were unsure if:

- Did not perceive that their chances of getting COVID-19 were high (aOR = 2.94; 95% CI 2.24-3.86)
- Did not agree complications from contracting COVID-19 were serious (aOR = 7.50; 95% CI 3.94-14.3)
- Did not agree vaccination decreased chances of getting COVID-19 or complications (aOR = 23.6; 95 CI 16.9-33)

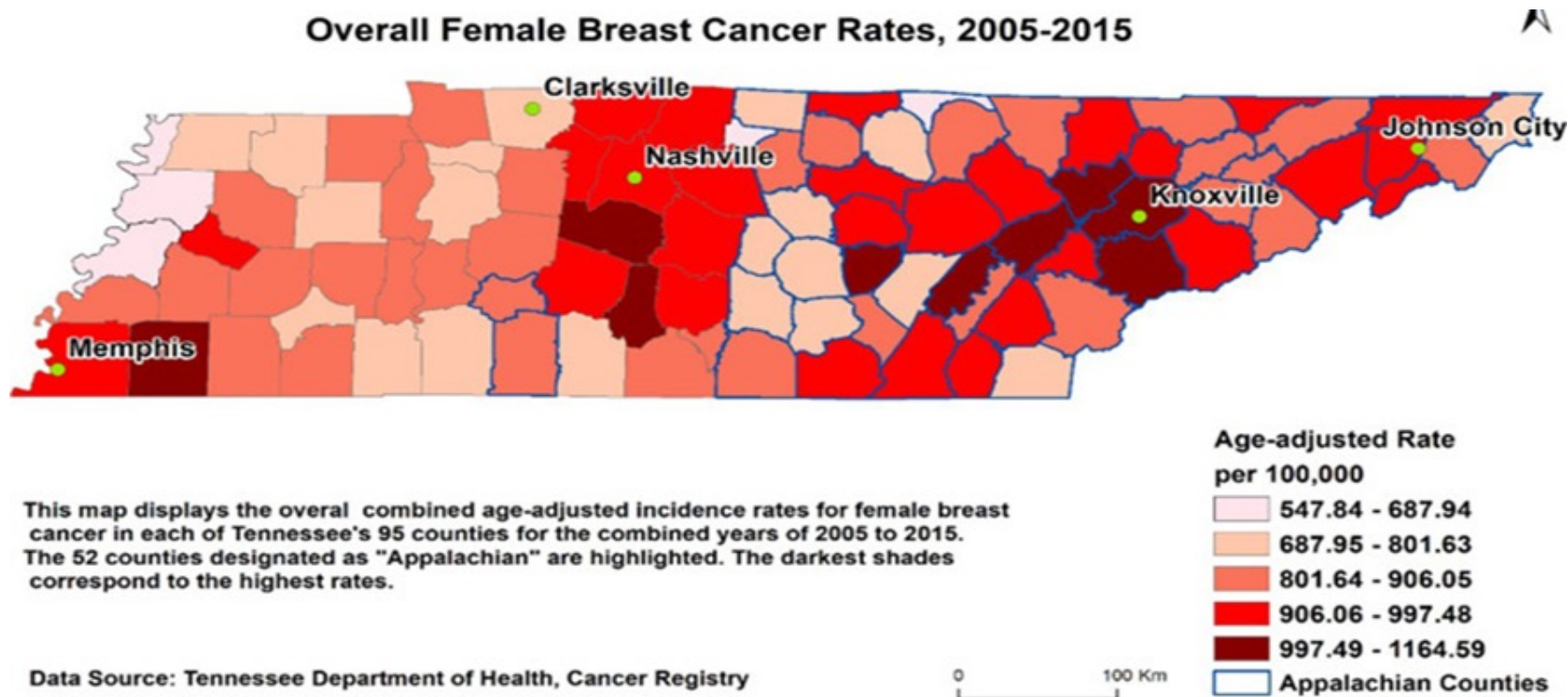
López-Cepero A, et. al, 2021. *Hum Vaccin Immunother.* 2021 Epub ahead of print.

NIMHD Grant No. U54 MD 007600



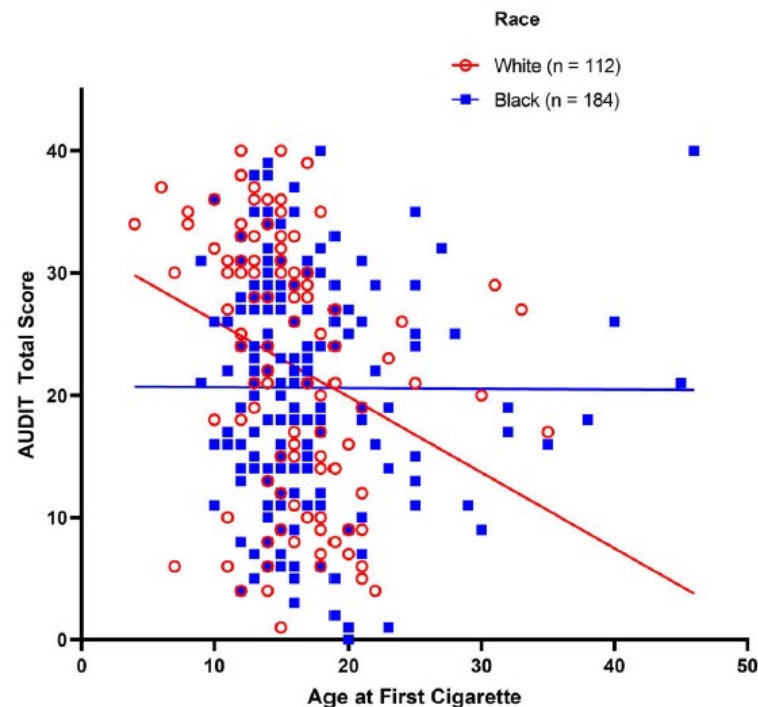
Geospatial Analysis of Breast Cancer Burden in Tennessee

- ArcGIS was used to geospatially evaluate distribution patterns of breast cancer in women ≥ 18 yrs (N=59,287) by Appalachian county designation in Tennessee
- Data from the Tennessee Cancer Registry from 2005 to 2015
- Spatial analysis revealed geographic differences between Appalachian and non-Appalachian counties



Racial Differences in the Association Between Alcohol Use and Cigarette Smoking

- Study explored the association between drinking and smoking in self-identified Black/African Americans and White participants of the NIAAA intramural national history clinical protocol (n=796 Black and 896 White individuals)
- Alcohol use disorder (AUD) diagnosis and current smoking were more prevalent in Black than White participants (AUD: 64% vs. 54%; Smoking: 46% vs. 35%)
- Among those with AUD, there was a correlation between AUD Identification Test (AUDIT) score and age of first cigarette that differed by race; no association among Blacks individuals, inversely related among White individuals



Study highlights importance of considering racial/ethnic background in preventative and therapeutic strategies for comorbid alcohol and nicotine use.



Social Support in Adolescence and Its Impact on Health Behaviors in U.S. Adults

Study is a secondary analysis of The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (ADD Health)

Findings:

- Regardless of sources or amount of emotional support, individuals who obtained less than a bachelor's degree were less likely to utilize healthcare than those that received a bachelor's degree or greater
- Individual's whose parents obtained a high school diploma or the equivalent were more likely to utilize healthcare than those with parents who received less than a high school diploma, regardless of sources of support
- Non-Hispanic Black individuals were also more likely to utilize healthcare regardless of sources of support

Koya Ferrell

- NIH Postbac Poster Day 2021 Outstanding Poster Award
- 2021 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) Attendance Award



NIMHD Division of Intramural Research

Harris, J., et al., [*Alcohol and Alcoholism*](#). 2021.



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Discussion



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