



Self-Reported Discrimination among New Mothers: Findings from the 2005 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Project

Shin Margaret Chao, PhD, Chandra Higgins, MPH, Yvonne Lau, MPH,
Cynthia Harding, M.P.H.

Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services



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Background

- ✓ Discrimination is a public health threat.
- ✓ Perceived discrimination has been linked to the health of new mothers. One proposed pathway is through increased stress for the mother.
- ✓ Measuring Discrimination: Psychometrically validated tool to assess lifetime experiences of discrimination.
- ✓ Lack of population-based studies addressing exposure to discrimination on new mothers in Los Angeles County. Reasons behind discrimination are needed.



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Objectives

- ❖ Use a psychometrically validated tool to assess lifetime prevalence of discrimination among new mothers in Los Angeles County
- ❖ Investigate racial disparities in the reasons women report feeling discrimination



Methods

Analyze data from the 2005 LAMB Survey

Inclusion Criteria

Los Angeles resident mothers 0-7 months after a live birth

Procedures (Modeled after CDC's PRAMS Project)

- ❖ Population data obtained from birth certificate data
- ❖ Stratified random sampling scheme
- ❖ Mailed self-administered survey (English, Spanish, and Chinese); LanguageLine Services
- ❖ Strategies used to improve response rate: introductory letter, first mailing, postcard reminder, second mailing, phone interviews, and incentive.





Discrimination Questions

- Krieger Experiences of Discrimination (EOD) tool:
 - “Have you **ever** experienced discrimination in any situation* because of your race /color, immigration status, age, income, gender, or were pregnant?”
- Response to unfair treatment:
 - Accept it as a fact of life?
 - Talk to other people about it?

* Situations include school, getting a job, at work, at home, getting medical care, getting housing, from police or in the courts,



Methods-Conti-

Analysis:

- I. Descriptive: Prevalence estimates, 95% CIs
- II. Multivariate: Logistic regressions to evaluate the racial disparities for the reasons new mothers felt they were discriminated while controlling for selected maternal characteristics





Results-Cont.-

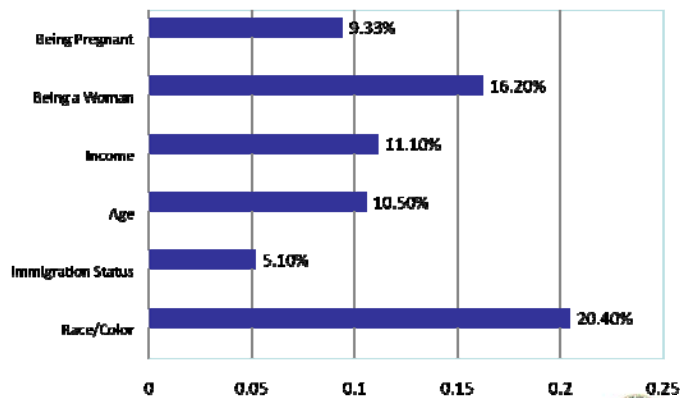
Table 1. The Overall Discrimination Rates by Race/Ethnicity

	Percent(%)	95 %CI		Estimated Number
Los Angeles County	33.2	31.2	35.2	49,322
Race/Ethnicity				
White	32.6	29.6	35.7	4,682
Latino	31.2	28.4	34.0	29,378
African American	42.4	39.0	45.8	4,816
Asian/PI	40.9	37.4	44.4	6,663



Results-Cont.-

Figure 1. Reasons for Being Discriminated



Slide 7

y13

PLEASE CORRECT: API 40.9%

Also missing decimal points for the highlighted cells.

POP EST:

LA COUNTY $0.33 * 149462 = 49322$

I don't know how you calculate yours. Please verify all pop estimates

PREVALENCE ESTIMATE

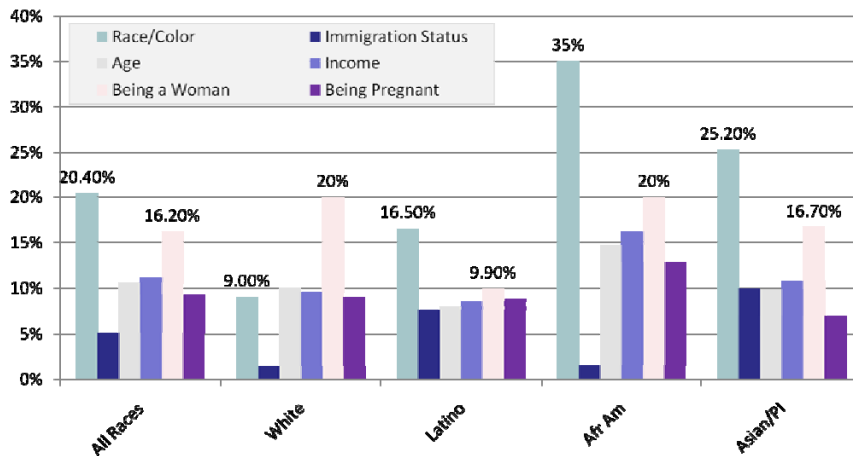
PERCENT	LOWERCL	UPPERCL	
White 32.6	29.6	35.7	
Hispanic	31.2	28.4	34.0
Afr Am 42.4	39	45.8	
API 40.9	37.4	44.4	
Nat Am	39.8	28.1	51.4

ylau, 8/10/2009



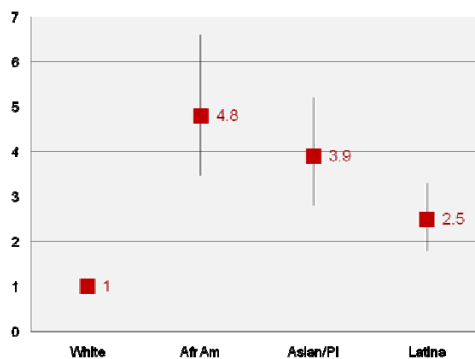
Results-Cont.-

Figure 2. Reasons for Being Discriminated by Race/Ethnicity



Results- Conti.-

Figure 3. Adjusted Odds Ratios* of Reporting Discrimination Due to color/Race



- Women of color are more likely than white women to report discrimination due to color/race with OR s ranging from 2.5 to 4.8

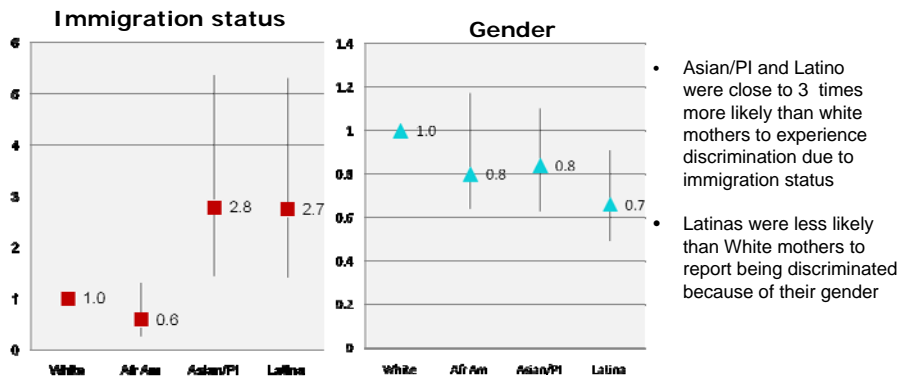
* Other variables included: years in the US, mother's education, mother's age, marital status, response to unfairly treatment.





Results- Cont.-

Adjusted Odds Ratios* of Self-Reported Discrimination due to:



- Asian/PI and Latino were close to 3 times more likely than white mothers to experience discrimination due to immigration status
- Latinas were less likely than White mothers to report being discriminated because of their gender

*Other variables included: years in the US, mother's education, mother's age, marital status, response to unfairly treatment.



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Results- Cont.-

- Women of color were not more or less likely than White women to report being discriminated because of their age, income, or pregnancy.

*Other variables included: years in the US, mother's education, mother's age, marital status, response to unfairly treatment.

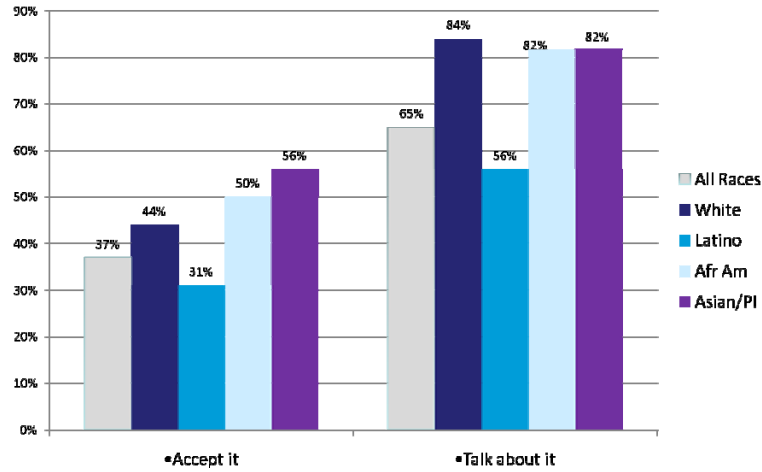


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Results- Cont.-

Figure 4. Response to Unfair Treatment by Race



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Hear What Our Moms Are Saying About Discrimination



"In high school, a teacher called me A BEANER"
"My son's teacher discriminated against Latinos"

Discriminated for being Hispanic;
not during pregnancy



Shopping clerk follows when I shop
because I'm Black



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Conclusions/Implications

- The overall self-reported discrimination rate is high among new mothers residing in LA County (33%). Both African American and Asian/PI mothers had high reported discrimination rates.
- Reasons for discrimination vary by race/ethnicity.
- Ways to respond to unfair treatment also vary by race/ethnicity. Both African American and Asian/ PI mothers tend to talk about it and accept it as a fact of life.



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Conclusions/Implications – Cont.-

- LACMCAH has formed an Action Learning Collaborative* (LACALC) to address racism on birth outcomes among perinatal providers among African Americans in two areas of LAC.
- Need to further explore why Asian women had high discrimination rate but still have a good birth outcomes



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And, Of course!! Mothers who completed the surveys!!!!

For additional LAMB information please visit www.LALamb.org



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Table 4. Adjusted ORs between Race/Ethnicity and Reasons for being Discriminated: Multivariate Analyses*

Reason	African American			Asian/Pacific Islander			Latino		
	OR	95% CI		OR	95% CI		OR	95% CI	
Color/Race	4.79*	3.48	6.6	3.85	2.8	5.2	2.5*	1.79	3.3
Immigrate Status	0.58	0.26	1.3	2.78	1.44	5.36	2.74*	1.4	5.3
Age	1.07	0.75	1.52	1.23	0.9	1.8	0.9	0.63	1.3
Income	1.04	0.73	1.48	1.01	0.7	1.47	0.7	0.52	1.06
Gender	0.8	0.64	1.17	0.84	0.63	1.1	0.66*	0.49	0.91
Pregnancy	1.3	0.86	1.3	0.8	0.6	1.3	1.35	0.9	2.02

* Each Model controlled for education, family income, years in US and marital status, accept/talk about unfairly treatment



Discrimination Questions

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