



Measuring Discrimination in NCHS Surveys

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**Meeting of the NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors
February 10, 2022**

CDC Recognizes Racism as a “Serious Threat to the Public’s Health”

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**
 - “Racism—both interpersonal and structural—negatively affects the mental and physical health of millions of people, preventing them from attaining their highest level of health, and consequently, affecting the health of our nation.”
- **American Public Health Association (APHA):**
 - “Racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health (like housing, education and employment) and is a barrier to health equity.”

Adding Measures of Discrimination to NCHS Surveys

- **Surveys considering adding content**
 - National Health Interview Survey
 - National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
 - National Survey of Family Growth
- **Why?**
 - Quantify and track prevalence of discrimination
 - Track relationships between discrimination and key health indicators
 - Nationally representative samples

2022 NSFG and 2021-2022 NHIS-Teen

■ Racial and ethnic discrimination during childhood

- **NSFG:** Before you were 18, how often did you feel that you were treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity?
 - *Never, rarely, sometimes, often, or always*
- **NHIS-Teen:** Has anyone ever treated or judged you unfairly because of your race or ethnic group? *(yes/no)*

■ Sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination during childhood

- **NSFG:** Before you were 18, how often did you feel that you were treated badly or unfairly because of your gender identity or sexual orientation?
 - *Never, rarely, sometimes, often, or always*
- **NHIS-Teen:** Has anyone ever treated or judged you unfairly because of your sexual orientation or gender identity? *(yes/no)*

2021-2022 NHIS-Teen

- **Three items from Everyday Discrimination Scale** (Williams et al., 1997)
 - In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you?
 - *Almost everyday, at least once a week, a few times a month, a few times a year, less than once a year, never*
 - You are treated with less courtesy or respect than other people your age.
 - You receive poorer service than other people your age at restaurants or stores.
 - People act as if they think you are not smart.

Measures of Discrimination

- Intersectional discrimination index (Schein and Bauer, 2019)
- Perceived racism scale (McNeily, 2006)
- Everyday discrimination scale (Williams et al., 1997)
- Experiences of discrimination scale (Krieger et al., 2005)
- Index of race-related stress (Utsey et al., 1996)
- Perceived ethnic discrimination questionnaire (Contrada et al., 2001)
- Workplace prejudice/discrimination inventory (Hughes et al., 1997)
- Adolescent discrimination distress index (Fisher et al., 2000)

- *Not an exhaustive list!!*

Proposal

- **A new BSC Workgroup**
 - To consider and assess measures of discrimination for use in NCHS surveys
- **Two goals**
 - Provide advice on the feasibility and practicality of including measures of discrimination on NCHS surveys
 - Provide advice on the selection of the best discrimination measure(s) to use

Part A: Feasibility and Practicality

- Given the limited space available on the NHIS, NSFG and NHANES, does the BSC consider the inclusion of discrimination measures to be an achievable goal for NCHS?
- What are the most important contributions NCHS can make to research or surveillance efforts related to discrimination?
- Should NCHS surveys have a focus on discrimination in health care settings or consider experiences of discrimination more generally?
- Should discrimination content be similar or different across NCHS surveys?

Part B: Selecting Discrimination Measures

- Minimum **number of survey items** to measure the concept?
- **Reference period** / recall period?
- Assess the **perceived reason** (attribution) for discrimination? How?
 - Adopt an intersectional approach?
- **Mode** of administration?
 - Is the best measure for face-to-face surveys different from the best measure if computer-assisted self-interviewing is available?
- Is additional **developmental research** needed?
 - How can NCHS contribute to this development?

Proposed Membership and Schedule

- At least two BSC members (one of whom will serve as chair)
- Other non-governmental expert consultants (as determined appropriate)
- Will meet 2-3 times between now and the next BSC meeting in May/June
- Report findings at the next BSC meeting