

CIAHD April 28, 2009 Research Meeting

(Summary Minutes)

Convened: 3:30 p.m. (Eastern)

Attendees: Sandra Albrecht, Shawn Boykin, Ana Diez-Roux, Amanda Dudley, Nancy Fleischer, DeMarc Hickson, James Jackson, Jonetta Johnson, , Briana Mezuk, Jane Rafferty, Whitney Robinson, Del Rodrigo, Daniel Sarpong, Amy Schulz, Yan Sun, Herman Taylor, Marc Turenne, Monique Willis, Shun Yi Wu

Administrative Items

October Fall Symposium in Jackson, MS. Finalizing arrangements over the summer. Information will be available soon.

Call for pilots are due on May 8th by 5pm Eastern Time. Will be awarding pilots to begin in September for our third year. General theme is integrating social and biologic factors in health disparities research.

Presentations

2008-2009 Funded Pilot Project 3. Emily Nicklett, Presented by Jane Shen “Examining the role of sociodemographic characteristics in diabetic experience and outcomes.”

Members Comments:

Goal is to look at disparities among chronically ill older adults over the life course and also examining disparities along the causal chain in order to “unlock the black box” among health disparities over time.

Participants were recruited through the research and participant program within the Institute of Gerontology plan to later triangulate their data with the HRS data. Conducted surveys and life history calendars of diabetics to better recall events and semi-structured interviews were conducted in order to gather experiences and challenges related to diabetes. Some difficulty recruiting respondents representing different ethnic and social groups.

When asked about major life events most responded that there were changes in their financial status.

Emily Nicklett will be presenting at the IAGG in July.

Questions:

How are Dearborn and Livonia distinct from one another? Dearborn is heavily populated by middleeastern's. Borders Detroit on the west side. Largest Arabic

community outside of the middle east. Livonia is predominately non-Hispanic white middle-class suburb of Detroit. By land area the largest city in the Detroit area.

How had the participant's financial status affected their ability to cope with diabetes? Participants would give general statements about it affected their endurance and their ability to purchase foods that cater more to a diabetic diet.

How are you sampling or recruiting participants for the study? Using the Research Participant Program from the Institute of Gerontology.

Since participants are recruited using the Gerontology Center, does that suggest that it is an older sample exclusively? The pool can be between any age but there is a focus on older individuals ages 50-80's (type 2 diabetes).

Action items: Make a list of participants going to the AIGG where they will be staying and how they can be contacted.

2008-2009 Pilot Project PI – Briana Mezuk “The influence of work-related and financial stressors, workplace discrimination, and retirement on blood pressure in older adults: a focus on the effects of race and age-cohort.”

Member comments:

Looking at the influence of job strain job characteristics occupational stressors and hypertension among older using the health and retirement survey. The goal of the project was to determine whether the relationship varies by age, and race ethnicity.

Cross sectionally they have found that there is a relationship between job stress and job satisfaction and prevalent hypertension only among older adults greater than age 65, no relationship among younger adults. Relationship largely persists when smoking is accounted.

Questions:

What are the age breaks? 65 and below and greater than 65.

Looking at the figure, are the differences between African Americans on all of the groups, how are the comparisons? Groups are broken into four groups of work stress and work satisfaction. For African Americans who work in high stress and high work satisfaction there was a significantly higher odd of hypertension. No relationship work stress/satisfaction relationship to hypertension in whites and little in Hispanics. Key factors would be to determine the whether the range and types of jobs are different in order to determine the meaning of stress and how it relates to each group.

Has anyone in the JHS group looked at job strain in relation to hypertension? This was one of the issues that Sharon Wyatt was talking about as a follow-up to one of the papers presently in process.

Were you able to get information and changes in people's status over time in terms of white collar jobs in older cohorts and once in retirement or over 65 they may have different jobs opposed to their primary jobs? Information has been collected and will be addressed in order to account for the fact that members of the older age group are moving out of one job and into another. Very complicated topic to account for considering much work multiple jobs pre-retirement age and often times the mix of things they are doing will change.

2008-2009 Funded Pilot Project 1. DeMarc Hickson, "Measuring Characteristics of neighborhood context in the Jackson, MS area."

Member comments:

Goal of the project was to characterize the Jackson MSA which includes Hines ranking in Madison County. Looking to collect data on the fast food restaurants, parks and recreational facilities and neighborhood SES. Also looking at the number of African Americans as a proportion of the overall population and by land area. Paper is presently being completed on looking at obesity diet and fast food restaurant and availability. Presently considering a paper on weight gain and physical activity.

Questions:

Could you please give us a sneak peak of your findings? With relation to the individual level characteristics it goes with the trend as expected with the availability of fast food restaurants increases, individual education decreases (defined as HS diploma or less). Household income decreases as fast food availability increases, and employment decreases as fast food availability increases.

Is there information available on when the restaurants were built? Information is available from the records. Only looked at whether they were built and operating between 2000 – 2004.

Feedback

May want to look at interactions between the physical environment and stressors in order to see whether the relationship between other factors and fast food. For example when people are coping with different situations the presence of fast food restaurants may have a larger affect on them rather than other circumstances.

Whitney Robinson & Monica Uddin "Alcohol abuse and gene-environment interactions: Two different approaches "

Member comments:

Genetic sociology is doing more to understand how people's lives interact with gene environment.

There is very little that we find that is purely genetic or purely environmental. Often they are not mutually exclusive things.

Questions: Gene B might would be related to the allergy and would account for some percentage of an allergic reaction

Feedback

Whenever you are looking at effects that are very distal to the factor that you are looking at in genetics, the effects are always going to be distal whether the outcome is a social outcome or disease related outcome except in some exceptional circumstances.

What has been observed in the genetic analysis is that it is pure association but in terms of the mechanism being presented, you are basically trying to capture the many layers of other related information.