



MEASURING SOCIAL DISPARITIES: A MODIFIED APPROACH TO THE CWI

by

DONALD J. HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology and
Center for Social & Demographic Analysis
University at Albany, SUNY
Email: DonH@albany.edu
Phone: (518) 442-4668

Meeting on “Review of the Child Well-being Index”
**Brookings Center on Children and Families &
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– OVERVIEW –

- **Group-Specific Summary Measures**
- **Group-Specific Disparity Measures**
- **Examples of Major Results**
- **Immigrant Disparities**
- **SES Disparities**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Ken Land, Vicki Lamb, Sarah Mustillo for sharing race-ethnic data they compiled to assess disparities
- Foundation for Child Development for supporting this research
- Co-author Suzanne Macartney

Slide 4. Group-Specific Summary Measures

(Current = Figure 22 from Land, Lamb & Mustillo)

(Proposed = Figure 1 from Hernandez & Macartney)

Current Approach

- * First year = 100 for each group
- * Later years = % change from group baseline
- * Trend in change from group baseline

Proposed Approach

- * First year =
 % difference from total population baseline
- * Later years =
 % difference from total population baseline
- * Trends in levels & disparities for each group

Slide 5. Group-Specific Disparity Measures

(Current = Figure 25 from Land, Lamb & Mustillo)

(Proposed = Figure 2 from Hernandez & Macartney)

Current Approach

- * First year disparity = 100 for each group
- * Later = % change from grp baseline disparity
- * Trend in change from group baseline disparity

Proposed Approach

- * First year =
Difference from whites in baseline year
- * Later years =
Difference from whites in current year
- * Trend in disparity (vis-a-vis whites) for each group

Slide 6. Black-White Disparities

Overall and in Each Domain

(Figure 11 from Hernandez & Macartney)

OVERALL DISPARITY FAVORS WHITES

(1988...25 point gap, narrowed to 19 points, or by 26%)

Disparity Favors Blacks

- * Safety/Behavioral (**expanded**)**
- * Emotional/Spiritual (little change)**

Disparity Favors Whites

- * Economic well-being (**narrowed**)**
- * Health (**narrowed**)**
- * Educational attainment (little change)**
- * Community connected (**narrowed**)**
- * Social relationships (**expanded**)**



**Slide 7. Black-White Disparities
in Economic Well-Being and Health
(Figures 12 & 13 from Hernandez & Macartney)**

Figure 12...Economic well-being

- * 25% reduction in Black disadvantage**
- * Due mainly to 39% reduction in poverty gap**

Figure 13...Health

- * 15% reduction in Black disadvantage**
- * Due to reduced gaps in most indicators
which**
- * More than counter-balanced increased
obesity gap**

Slide 8. Black-White Disparities in Safety/Behavioral and Social Relationships (Figures 14 & 17 from Hernandez & Macartney)



Figure 14...Safety/Behavioral

- * Reversal and expansion, to 23 point disparity favoring Blacks
- * Due mainly to 60% narrowing teen birth rate

Figure 17...Social Relationships

- * 18 point expansion in Black disadvantage
- * Due mainly to 30 point expansion in residential mobility disparity

Slide 9. Hispanic-White Disparities

Overall and in Each Domain

(Figure 19 from Hernandez & Macartney)

OVERALL DISPARITY FAVORS WHITES

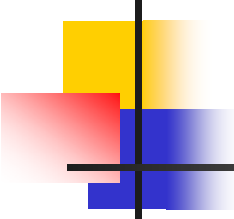
(20 point gap, narrowed to 16 points, or by 19%)

Disparity Favors Hispanics

- * Emotional/Spiritual (little change)

Disparity Favors Whites

- * Economic well-being (**narrowed**)
- * Health (little change)
- * Safety/Behavioral (**narrowed**)
- * Educational attainment (little change)
- * Community connected (little change)
- * Social relationship (**narrowed**)



**Slide 10. Hispanic-White Disparities
in Economic Well-Being and Health
(Figures 20 & 21 from Hernandez & Macartney)**

Figure 20...Economic well-being

- * 28% reduction in Hispanic disadvantage**
- * Due mainly to 41% reduction in poverty gap**

Figure 21...Health

- * Small 3 pt. reduction in Hispanic disadvantage**
- * But, 33 pt. expansion in Hispanic advantage in activity limitations**
- * Counter-balanced mainly by 19 pt. expansion in Hispanic disadvantage in obesity**

**Slide 11. Hispanic-White Disparities
in Safety/Behavioral and Social Relationships
(Figures 22 & 25 from Hernandez & Macartney)**



Figure 22...Safety/Behavioral

- * 12 point reduction in Hispanic disadvantage**
- * Due mainly to 29% narrowing teen birth rate**

Figure 25...Social Relationships

- * 10 point reduction in Hispanic disadvantage**
- * Due to narrowing of Hispanic single parent families and residential mobility**

Slide 12. Immigrant Disparities: Next Steps



Indicator values sometimes differ greatly
by *IMMIGRANT GENERATION*
and *COUNTRY OF ORIGIN*

Immigrant classifiers are...

Mostly Available for
Economic well-being
Health
Community connect
Social relations

Mostly Not Available for
Safety/Behavioral (MTF)
Education (NAEP)
Emotional/Spiritual (MTF)



Slide 13. Socioeconomic Disparities: Mother's Education, Next Steps

**Indicator values can differ greatly
by *MOTHER'S EDUCATION***

***Mother's education classifiers are available for
5 domains...all except...***

- * Education (NAEP)***
- * Community connectedness
(age 18+ indicators)***



Slide 14. Socioeconomic Disparities: Family Income Quintile, Next Steps

**Indicator values can differ greatly
by FAMILY INCOME QUINTILE**

Family income quintiles are available for

- * Economic well-being (3/4)***
- * Health (3/6, Vital Stats)***
- * Safety/Behavioral (1/6, MTF, Vital Stats)***
- * Education attainments (None, NAEP)***
- * Community connectedness (1/5, age 18+)***
- * Social relationships (All, 2/2)***
- * Emotional/Spiritual (None, MTF, Vital Stats)***



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