

**S** Syracuse University  
Maxwell School of  
Citizenship & Public Affairs

# Variation in Disability Risk among Midlife Working- Age Latinos in the U.S.

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Promotion and Population Health



# Collaborators

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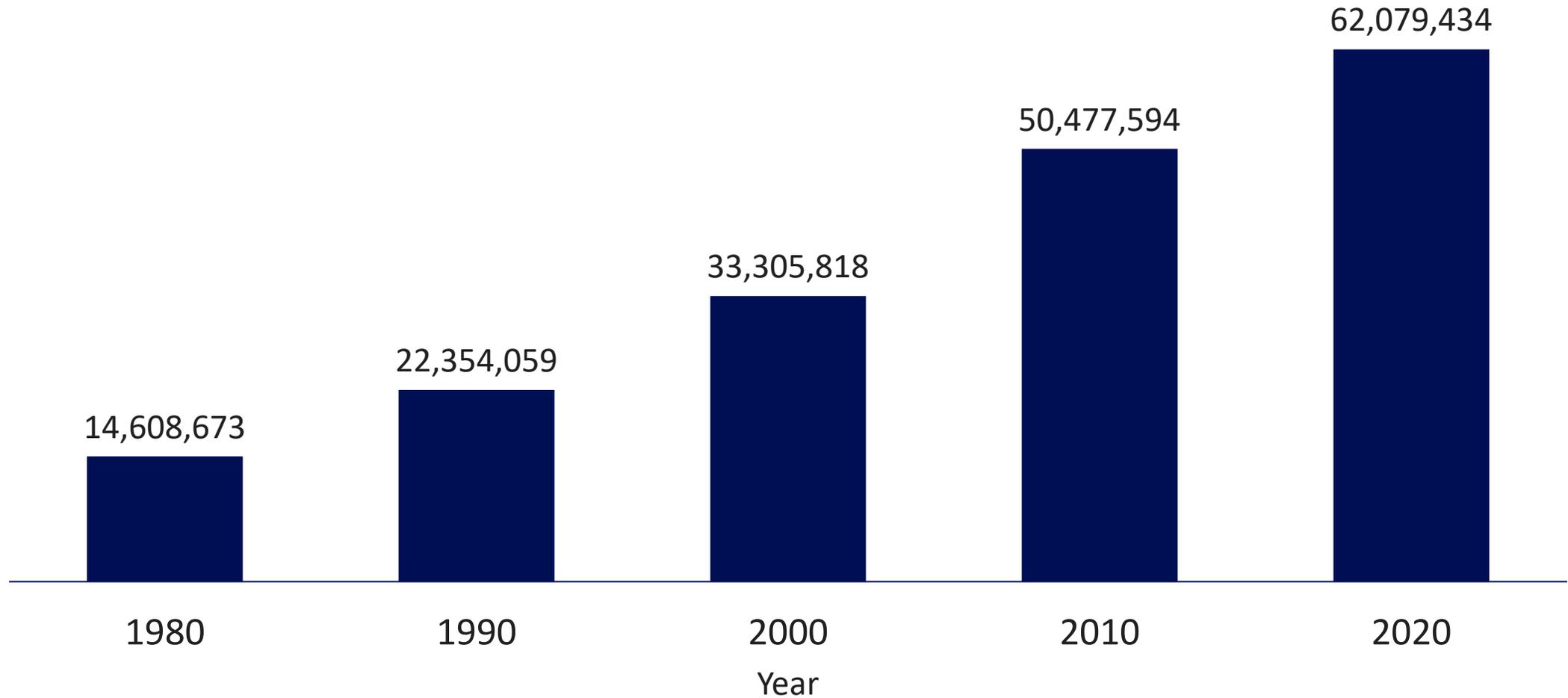
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# The Demography of Latinos

# U.S. Latinx Population, 1980 to 2020

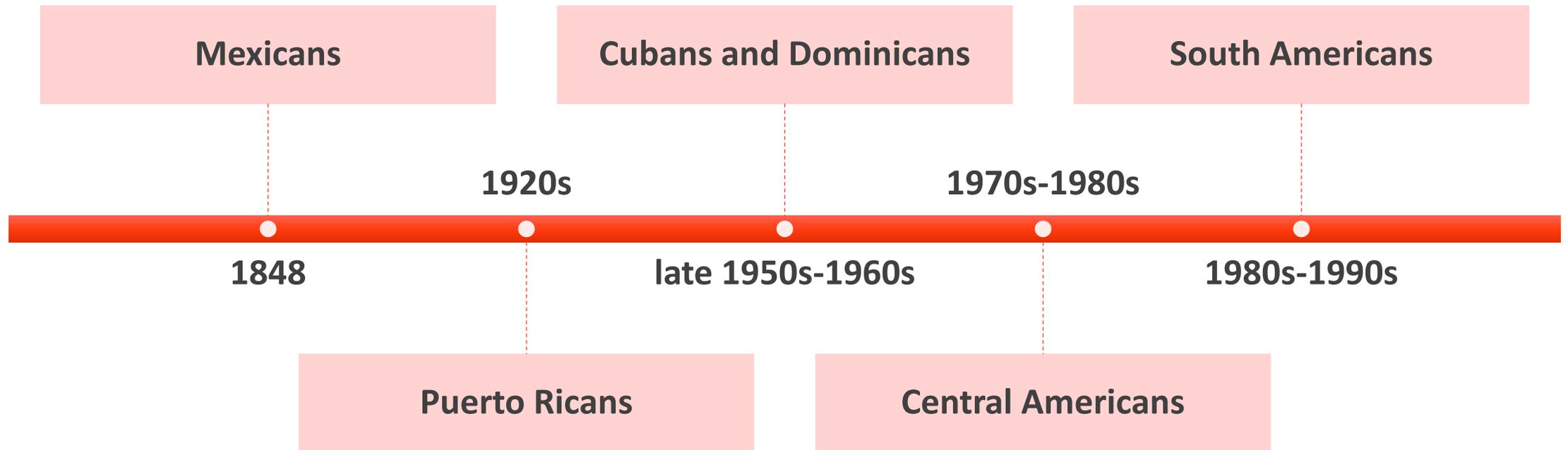


# Unpacking Latino Pan-Ethnicity



- Latin America and the Caribbean represents over 30 countries who have a shared experience of colonization by the Spaniards, Portuguese, U.S., etc.
- Racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse.

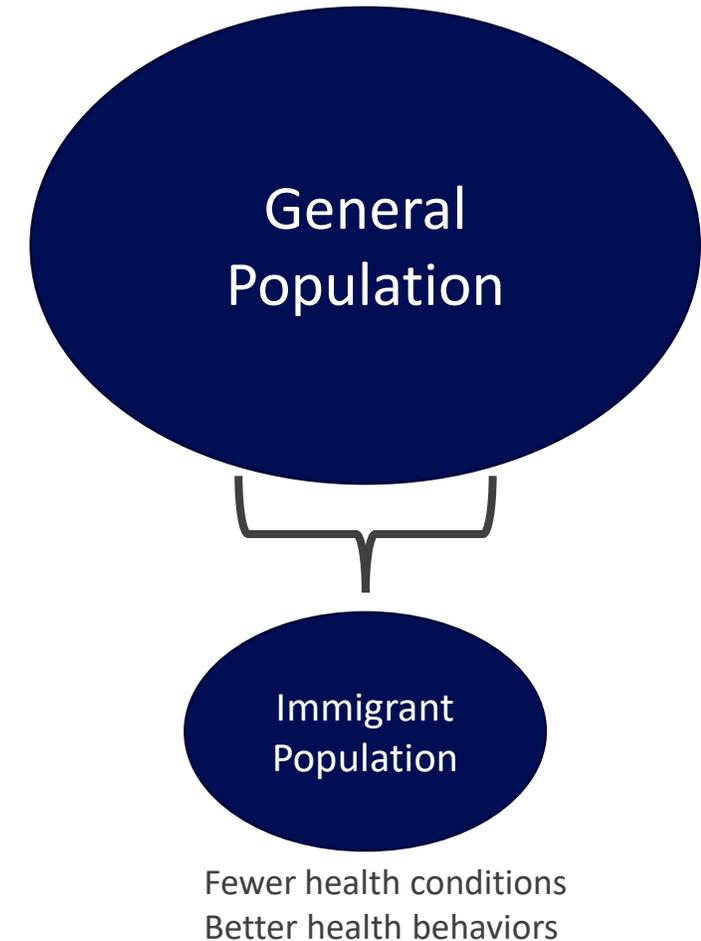
# Latinx: Newcomers in the United States?



# Nativity Status & Population Health

## Healthy Immigrant Effect:

- Foreign-born are a select population
- Generally healthier than both their U.S.-born counterparts and those left behind in their sending countries
- Positive selection is a contributing factor to greater life expectancy among foreign-born Latinos



# Duration in the U.S. & Age of Migration

## Duration in the U.S.

- Negative acculturation hypothesis: the adoption of unhealthy behaviors (e.g., unhealthy diets, smoking, and drinking)

## Age of Migration

- Type of migration (labor vs. family)
- Degree of health selectivity
  - Early-life
  - Midlife
  - Late-life
- Exposure to a new social and cultural environment

# Life course: Age of Migration

Table 1. Hypothesized Health Disparities at Age 50 Between the Native and Foreign Born by Age at Migration

Age at migration	Non-Hispanic			Hispanic		
	1-17	18-34	35-49	1-17	18-34	35-49
Health selectivity at arrival	+	+++	++	+	+++	++
Negative acculturation	---	--	-	---	--	-
Socioeconomic incorporation	+++	++	+	++	+	0
Predicted disparities at age 50	++	+++	++	0	++	-

\*Note: "+" indicates health advantage (and its size) compared with the native born; "0" indicates no difference from native born; "-" indicates health disadvantage (and its size) compared with the native born.

\*Source: Gubernskaya, Z. (2014). Age at migration and self-rated health trajectories after age 50: Understanding the older immigrant health paradox. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 70(2), 279-290.

# Data & Methods

# The American Community Survey

- ❖ Data are from the 2008-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) public-use microdata sample (PUMS).
- ❖ ACS has large sample sizes that allows disaggregation by Hispanic or Latino origin.
- ❖ The mail and internet ACS survey are offered in Spanish and English.



# Analytic Strategy

- **Logistic regression models stratified by gender**
- Analyses are further stratified by:
  - Nativity status
  - Citizenship
  - Duration in the U.S.
  - Age of Migration
  - Country of origin
  - Race
- Age group: 45-65
- Survey adjusted
- N= 1,449,455

# Outcome Measures

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**Ambulatory difficulty**—having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

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**Self-care difficulty**—difficulties bathing or dressing.

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**Cognitive difficulty**—difficulties learning, remembering, concentrating, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

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**Independent living difficulty**—difficulties doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem.

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# Sociodemographic Variables

## Nativity

- U.S.-born Latino
- Foreign-born Latino

## Citizenship

- Naturalized U.S. citizen
- Not a U.S. citizen

## Duration in the U.S.

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 20+ years

## Age of Migration

- <18
- 18-34
- 35+

## Country of origin

- Mexican
- Puerto Rican
- Cuban
- Dominican
- Central American
- South American
- All “other” Latinos

## Race

- White
- Black
- Indigenous
- Asian
- Other/Multiracial

## Gender

- Females
- Males

## Age

- 45-65

# Results

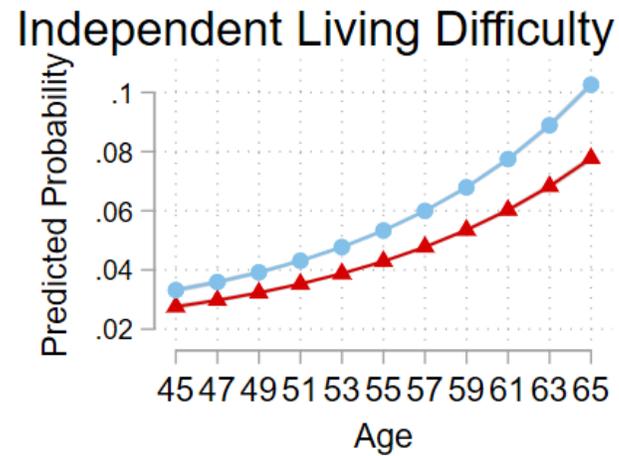
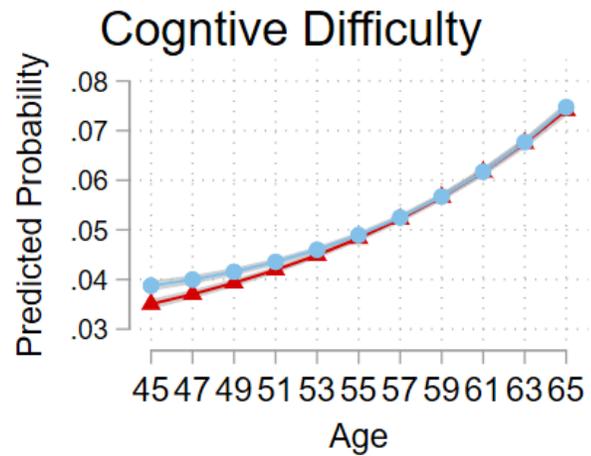
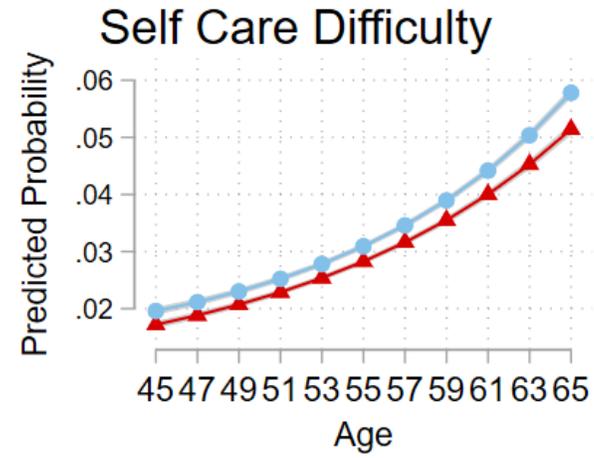
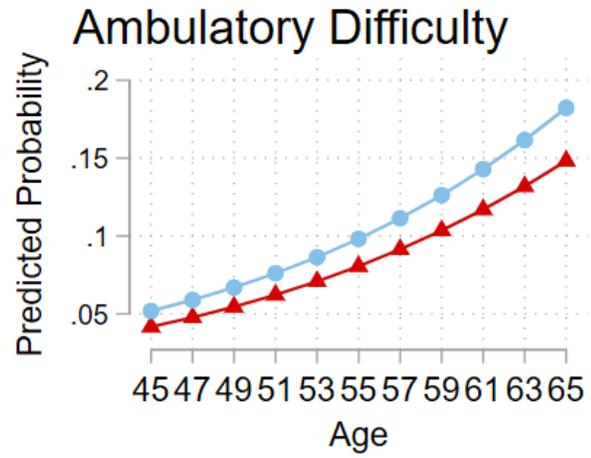
# Sample Characteristics

	Full Sample	Female	Male
Age	53.0 (5.6)	53.2 (5.6)	52.9 (5.6)
Female (%)	50.4	–	–
Nativity and Citizenship (%)			
U.S. Born	40.7	41.4	39.9
Foreign-born, Naturalized Citizen	27.2	27.8	26.6
Foreign-born, Non-Citizen	32.1	30.7	33.5
Country of Origin (%)			
Mexican	59.1	57.6	60.6
Puerto Rican	10.4	10.7	10.1
Cuban	5.5	5.2	5.7
Dominican	3.7	4.2	3.2
Central American	9.2	9.4	8.9
South American	8.3	8.9	7.7
All Other Hispanic	3.9	4.0	3.8

# Sample Characteristics

	Full Sample	Female	Male
Race (%)			
White	66.4	66.9	65.8
Black	1.9	2.0	1.8
Indigenous	1.0	1.0	1.1
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.4
Other/Multiracial	30.4	29.8	31.0
Outcomes (%)			
Ambulatory Difficulty	8.7	9.6	7.7
Cognitive Difficulty	4.9	5.0	4.8
Independent Living Difficulty	4.8	5.4	4.3
Self-Care Difficulty	3.0	3.2	2.8

Pan-ethnic Latinos

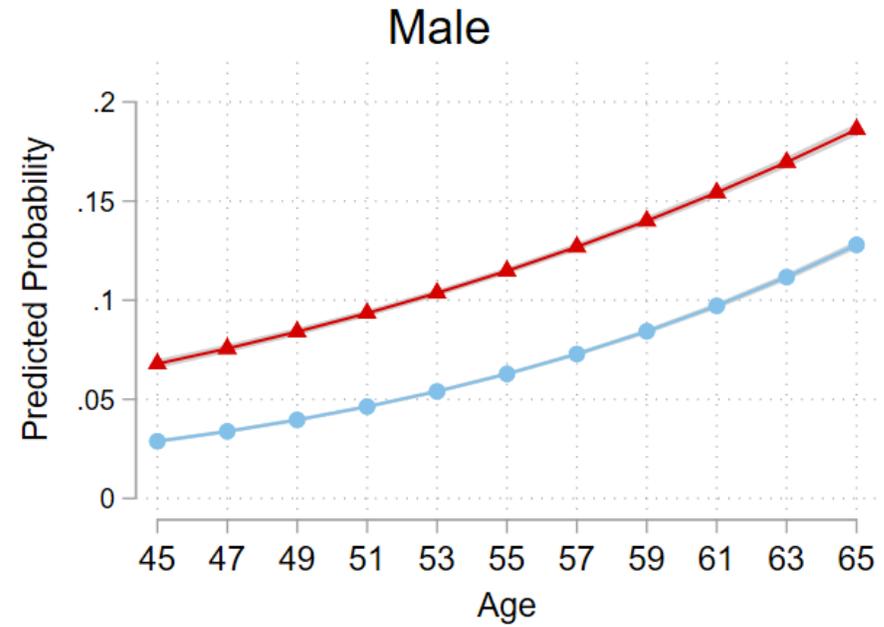
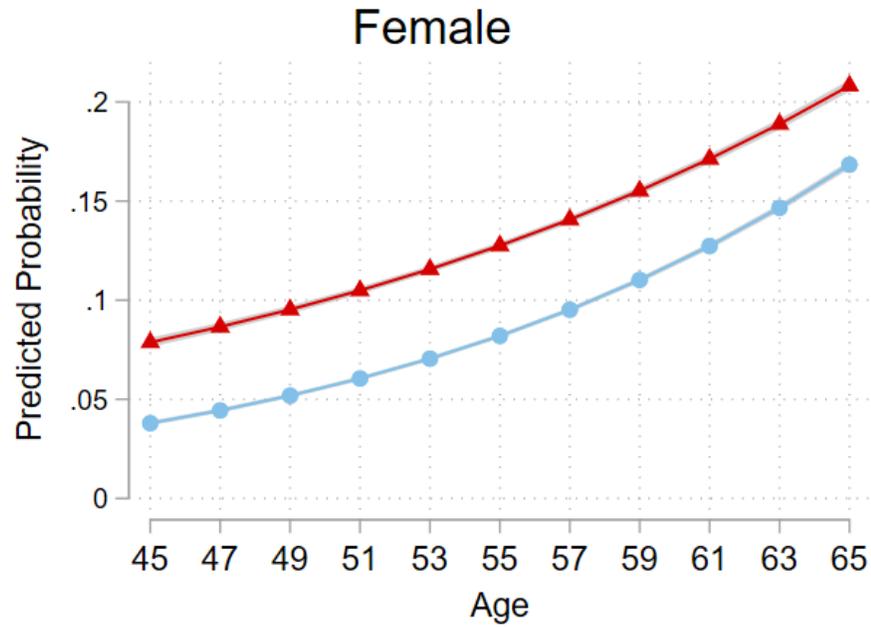


▲ Male ● Female

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

Nativity

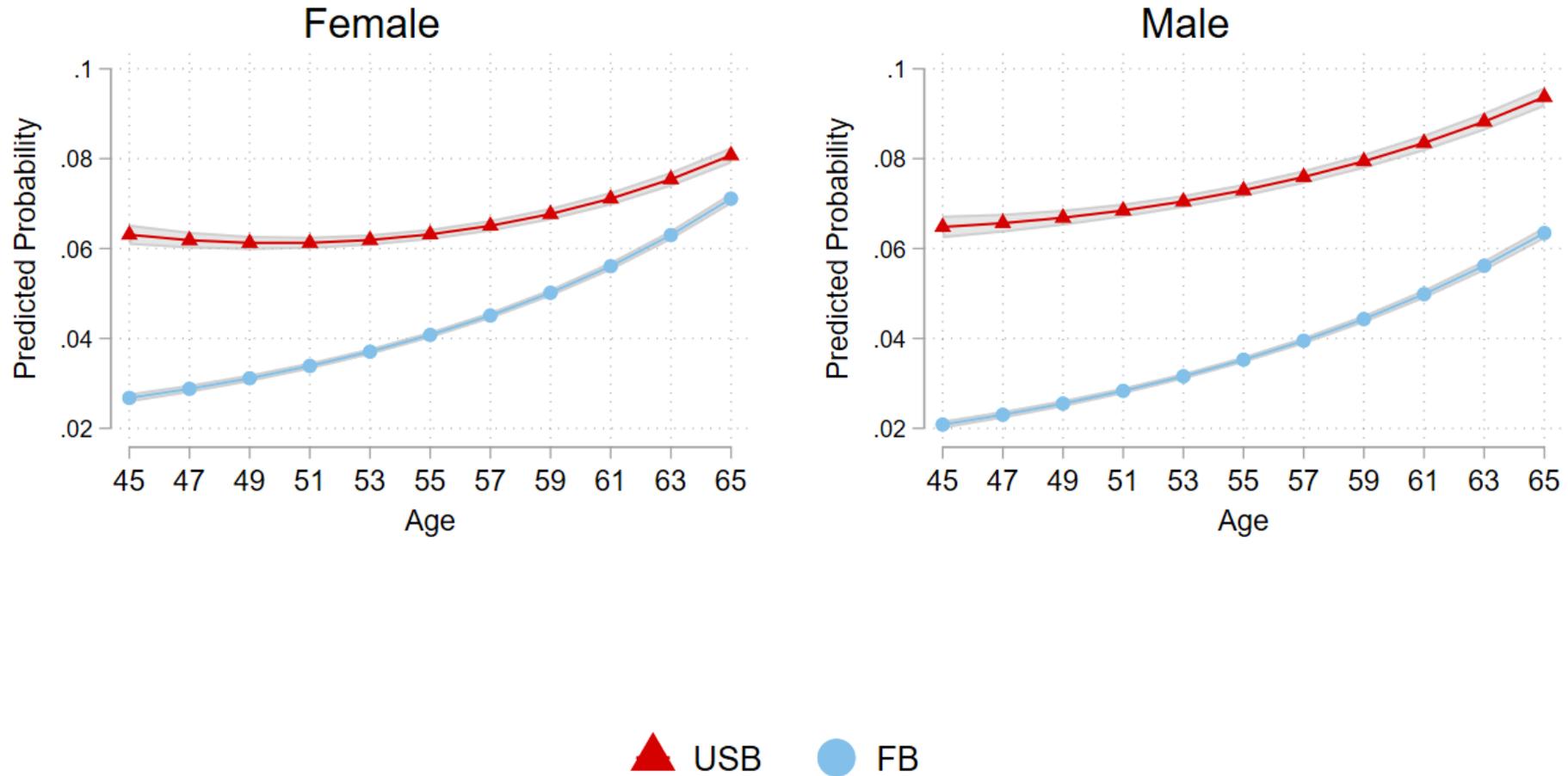
# Ambulatory Difficulty



▲ USB ● FB

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

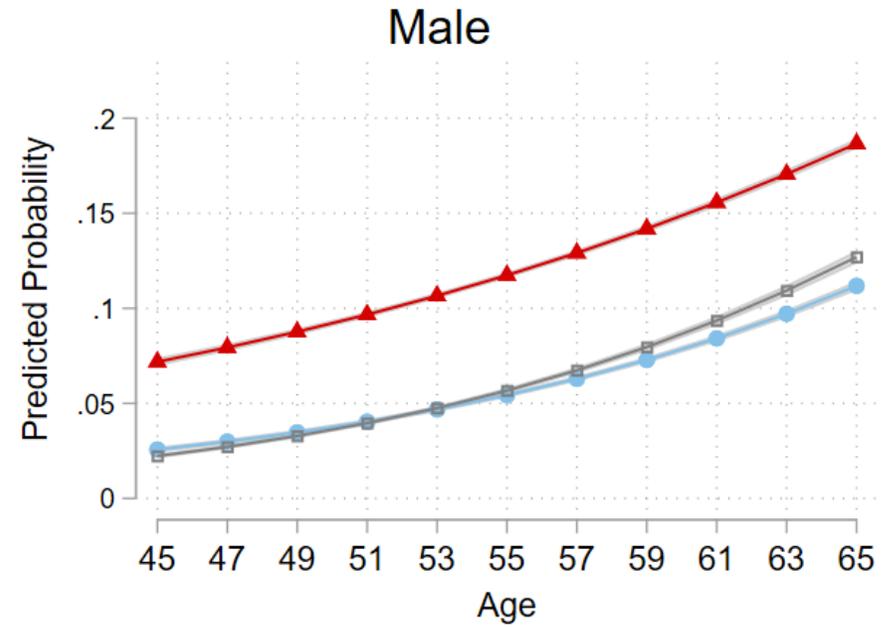
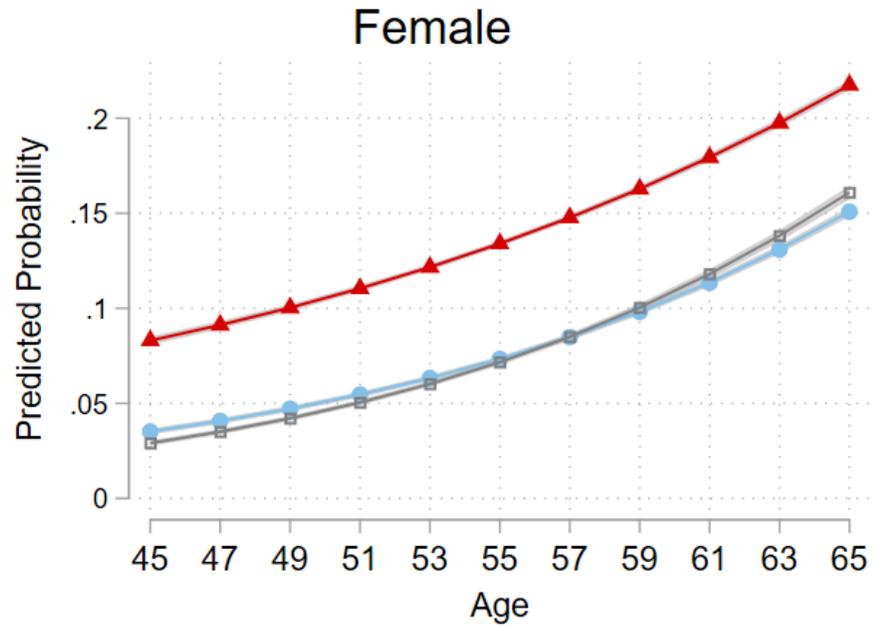
# Cognitive Difficulty



Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

Citizenship

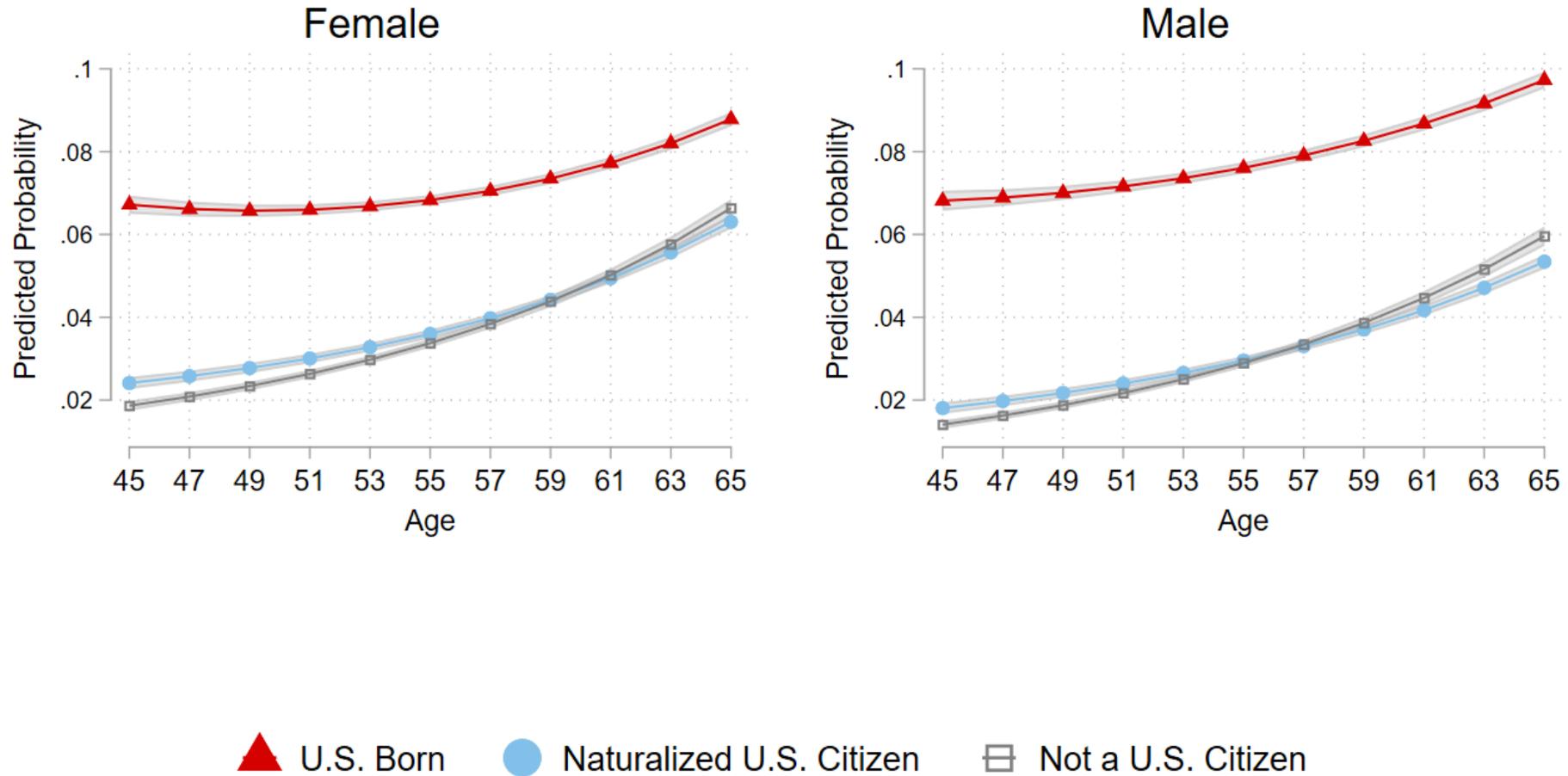
# Ambulatory Difficulty



▲ U.S. Born   ● Naturalized U.S. Citizen   ◻ Not a U.S. Citizen

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

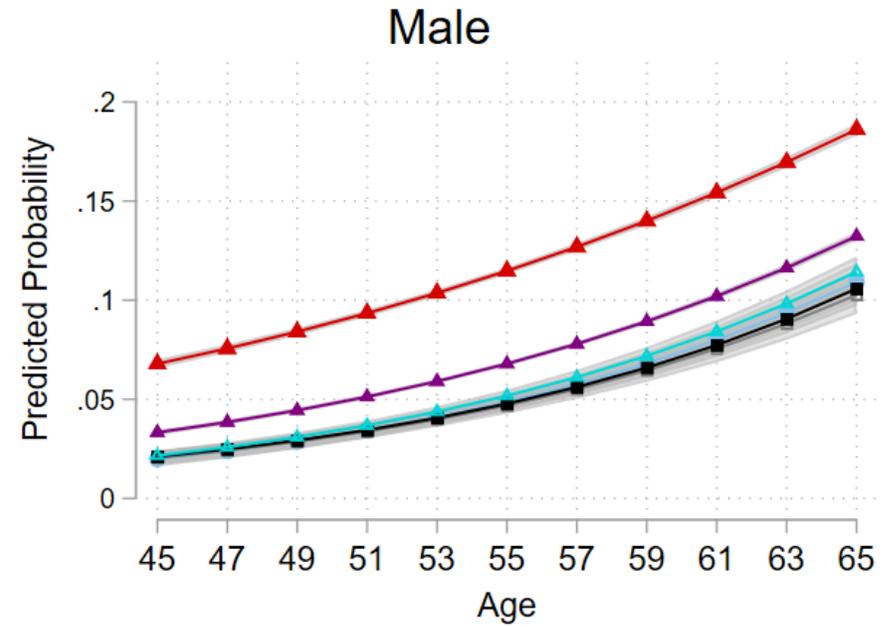
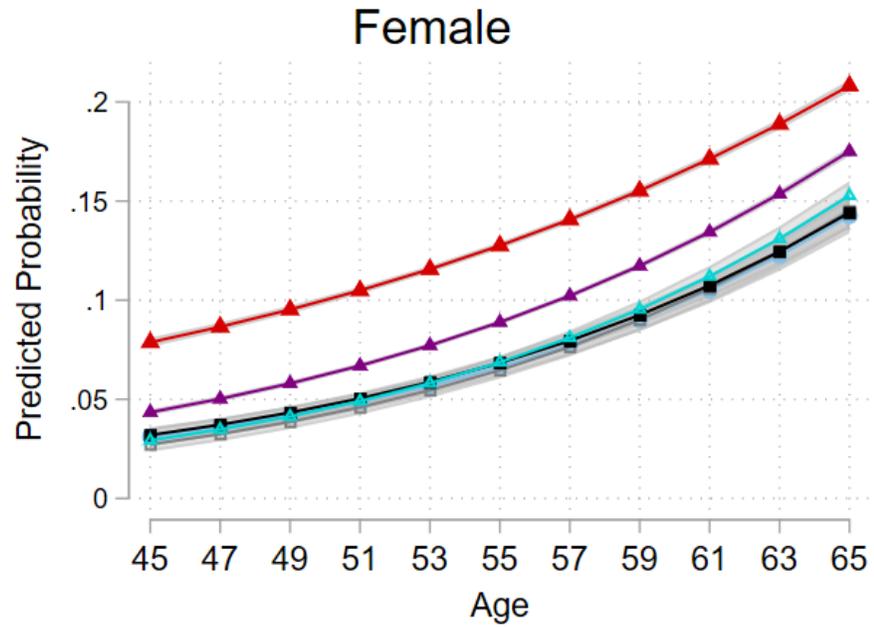
# Cognitive Difficulty



Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

Duration in the U.S.

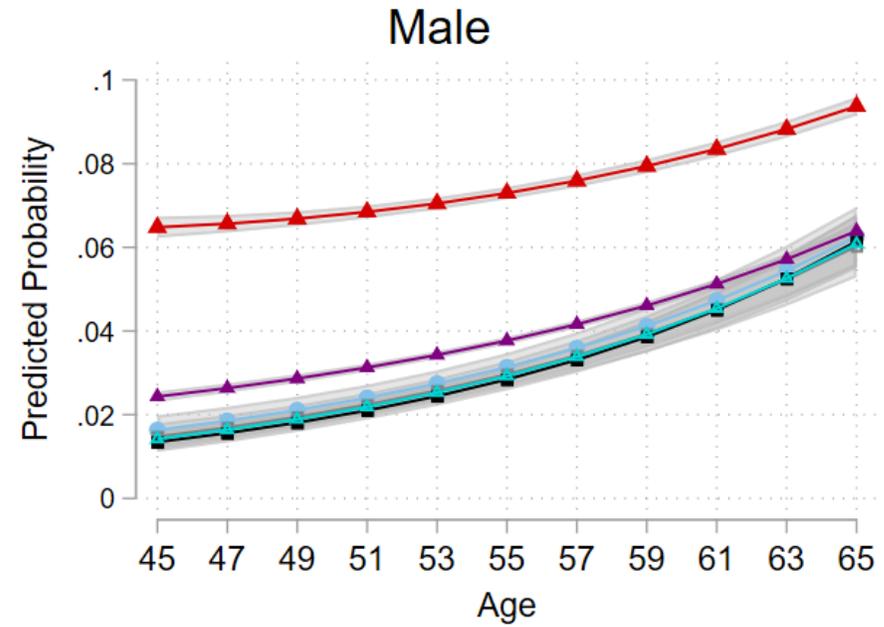
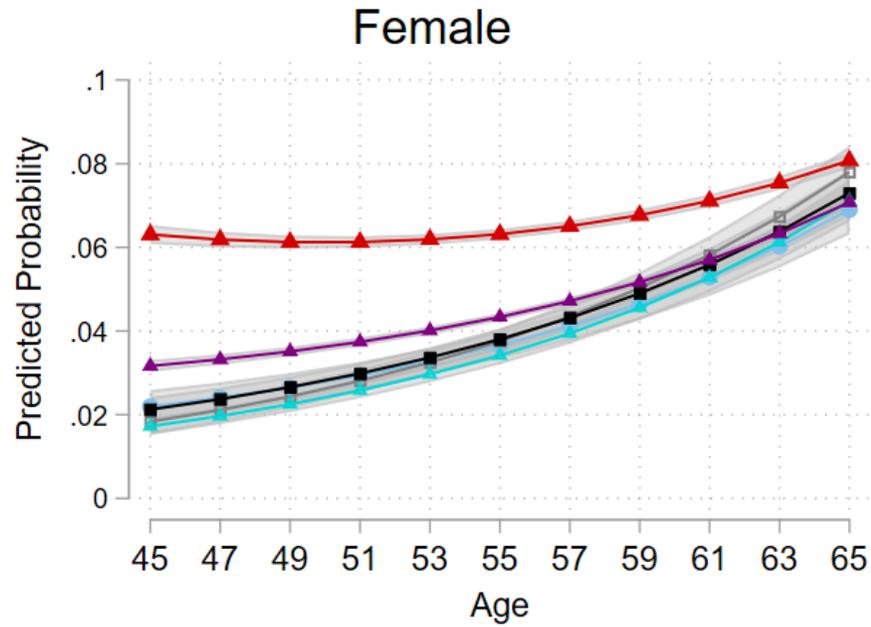
# Ambulatory Difficulty



▲ U.S.-born   ● 0-5 years   ◻ 6-10 years   ■ 11-15 years   ▲ 16-20 years   ▲ 21+ years

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

# Cognitive Difficulty

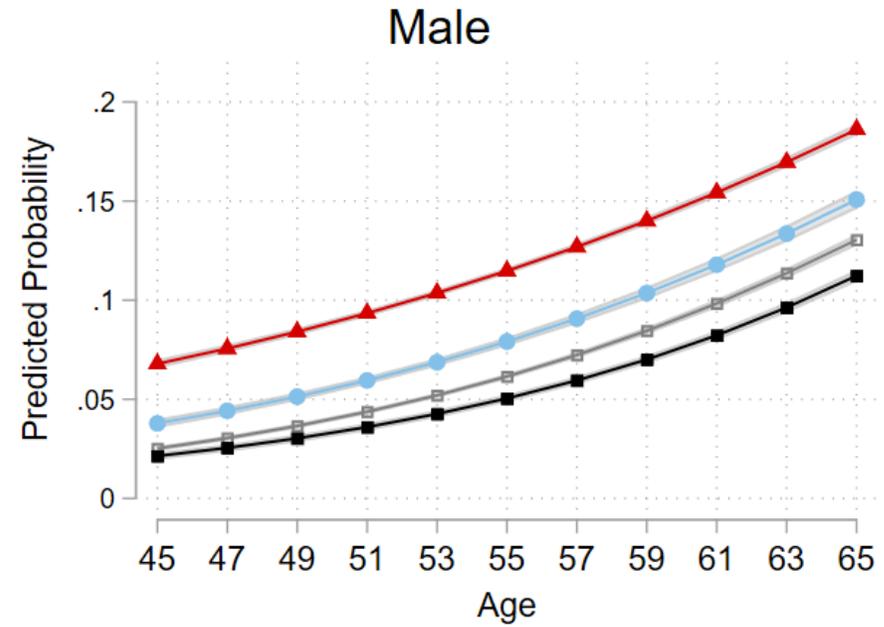
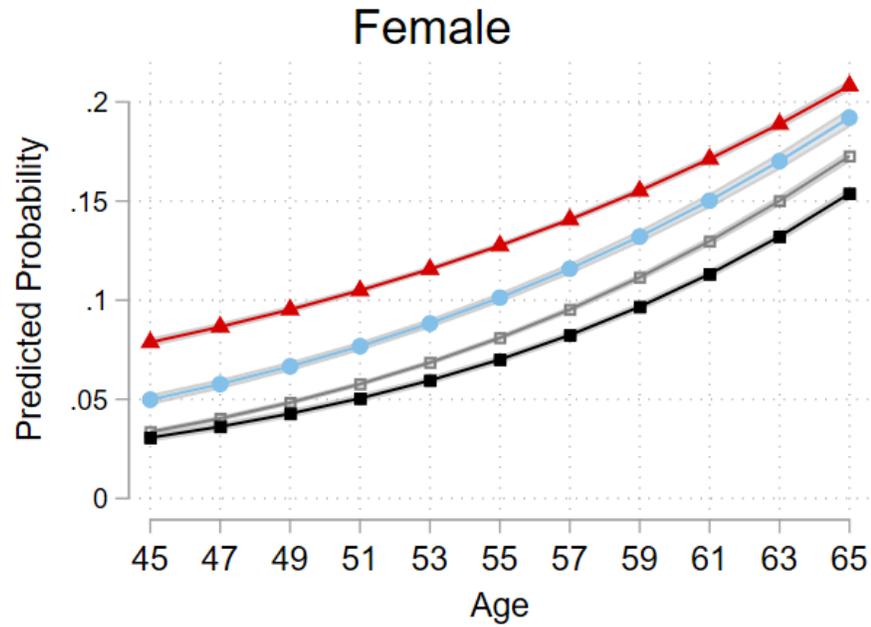


▲ U.S.-born   ● 0-5 years   ◻ 6-10 years   ■ 11-15 years   ▲ 16-20 years   ▲ 21+ years

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

Age of Migration

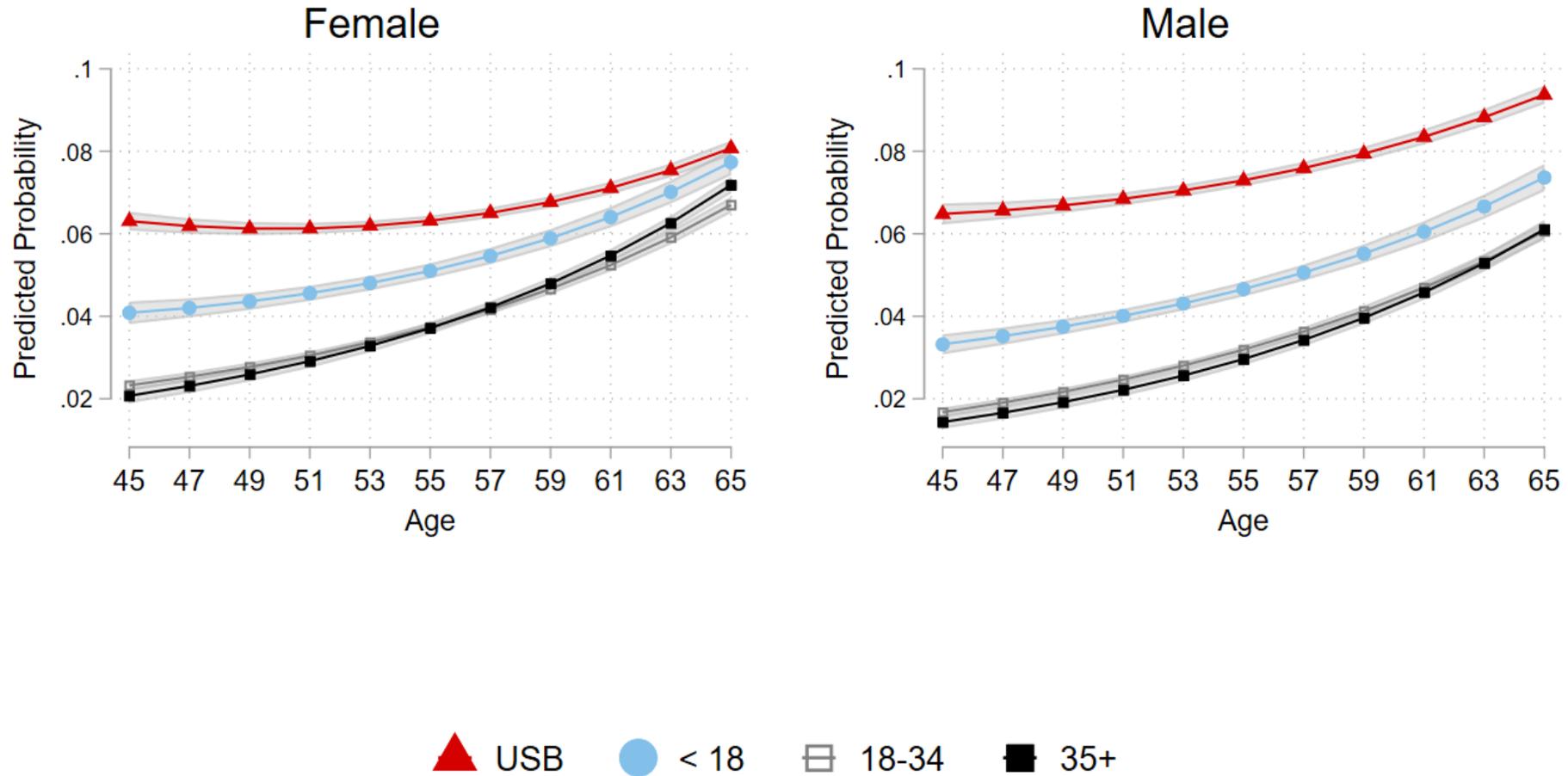
# Ambulatory Difficulty



▲ USB   ● < 18   ◻ 18-34   ■ 35+

Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

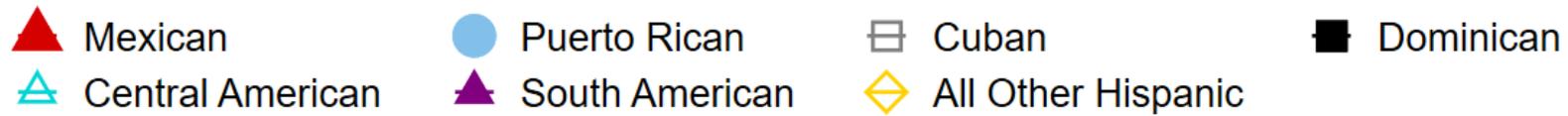
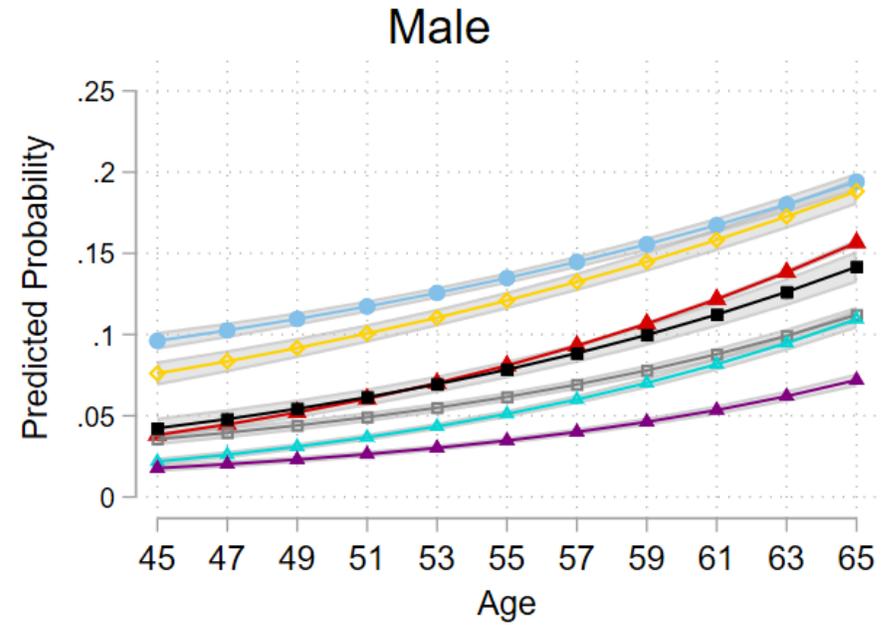
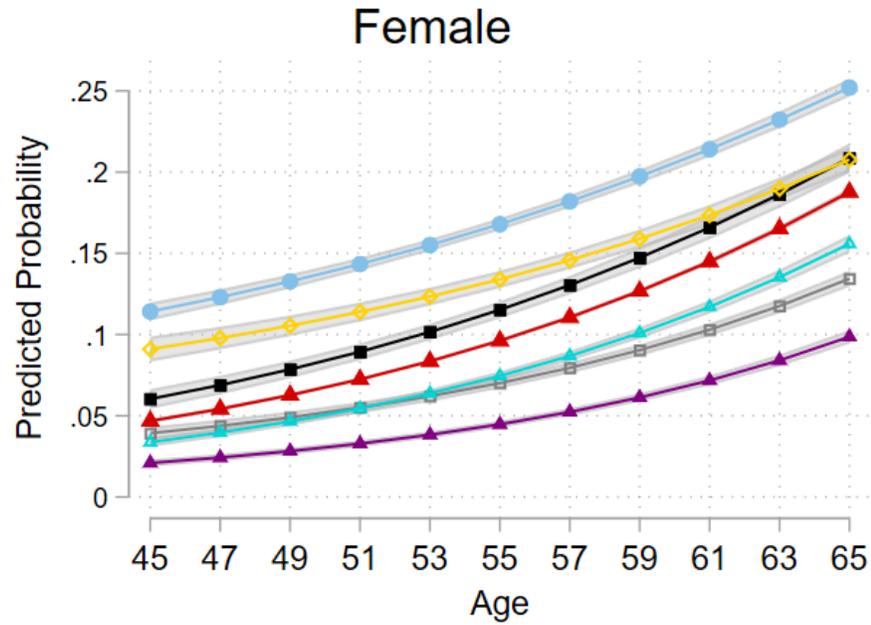
# Cognitive Difficulty



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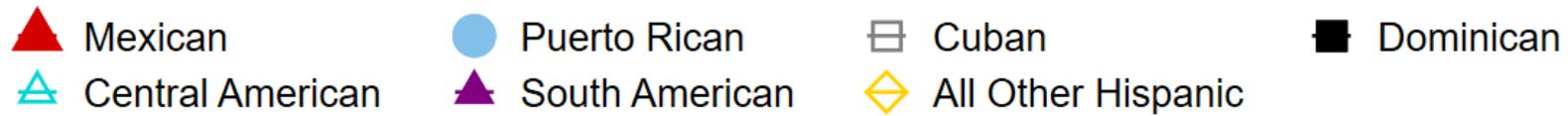
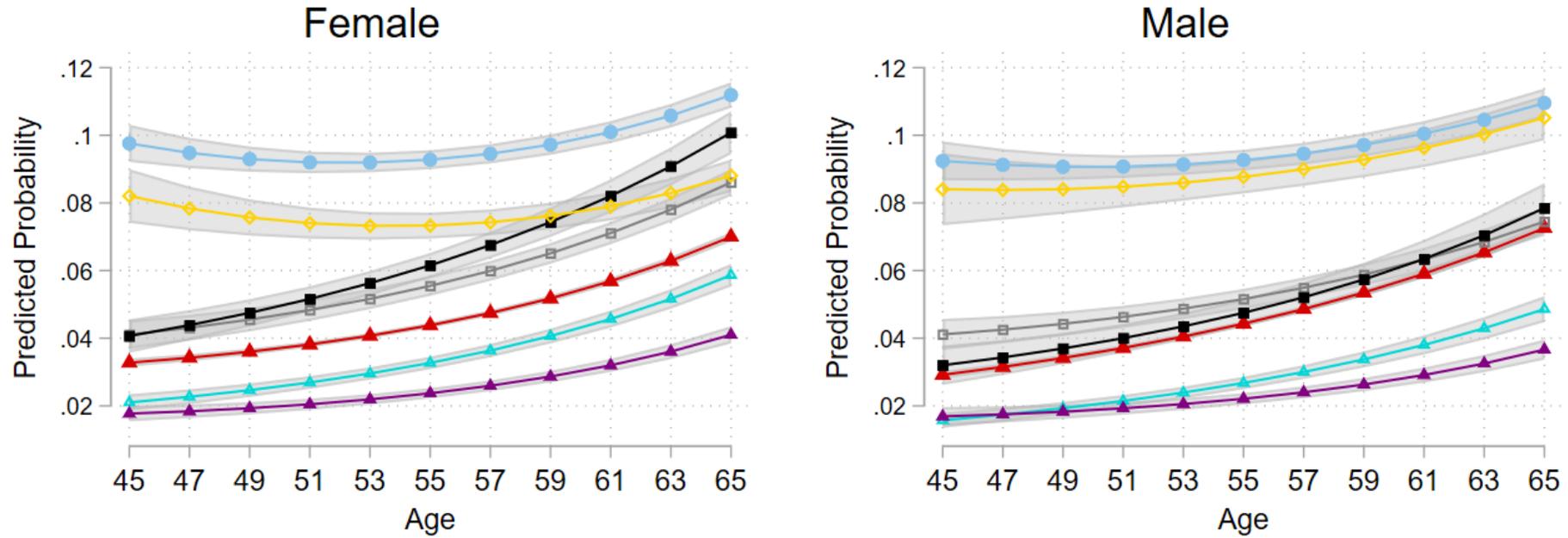
Country of Origin

# Ambulatory Difficulty



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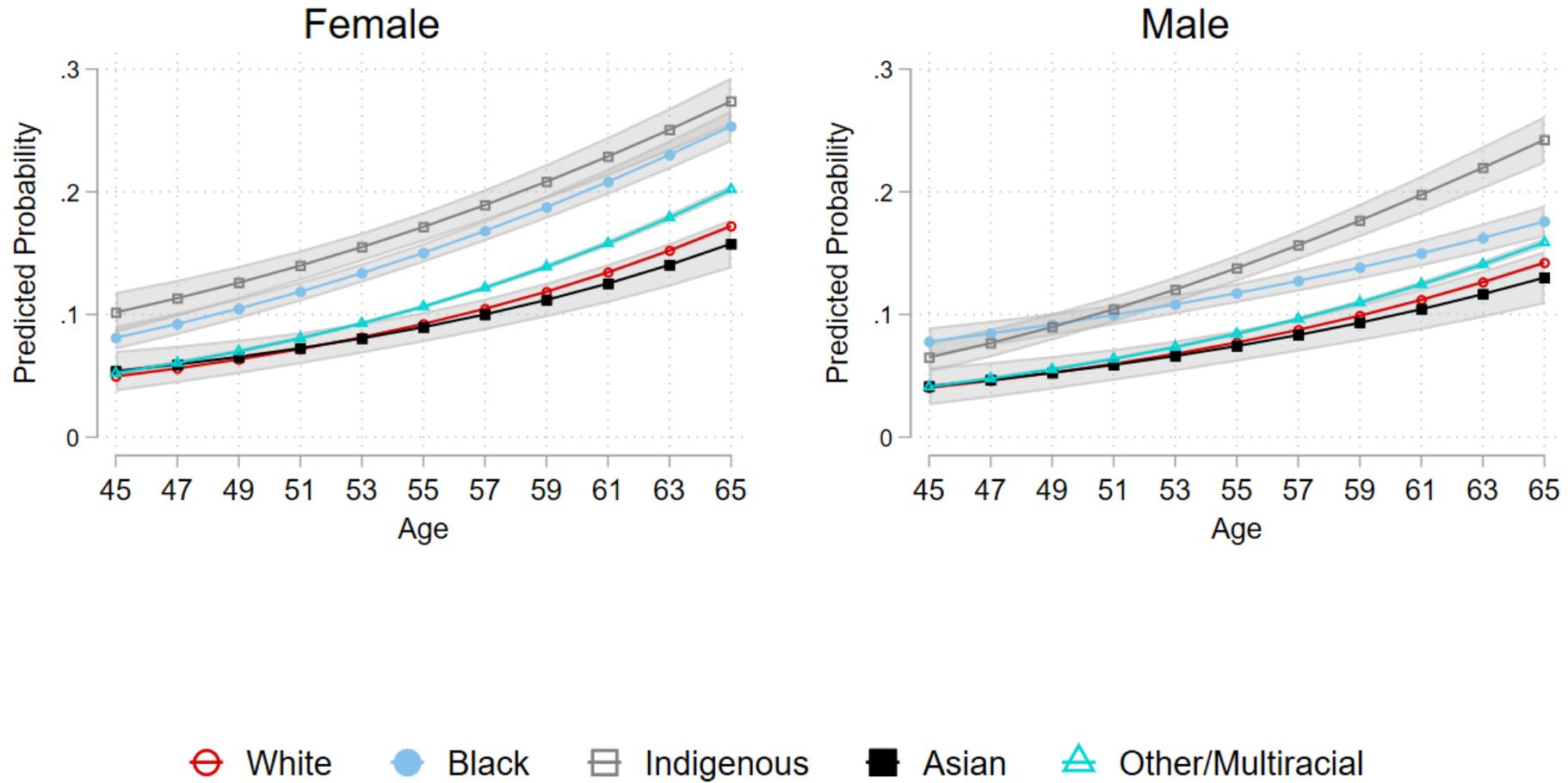
# Cognitive Difficulty



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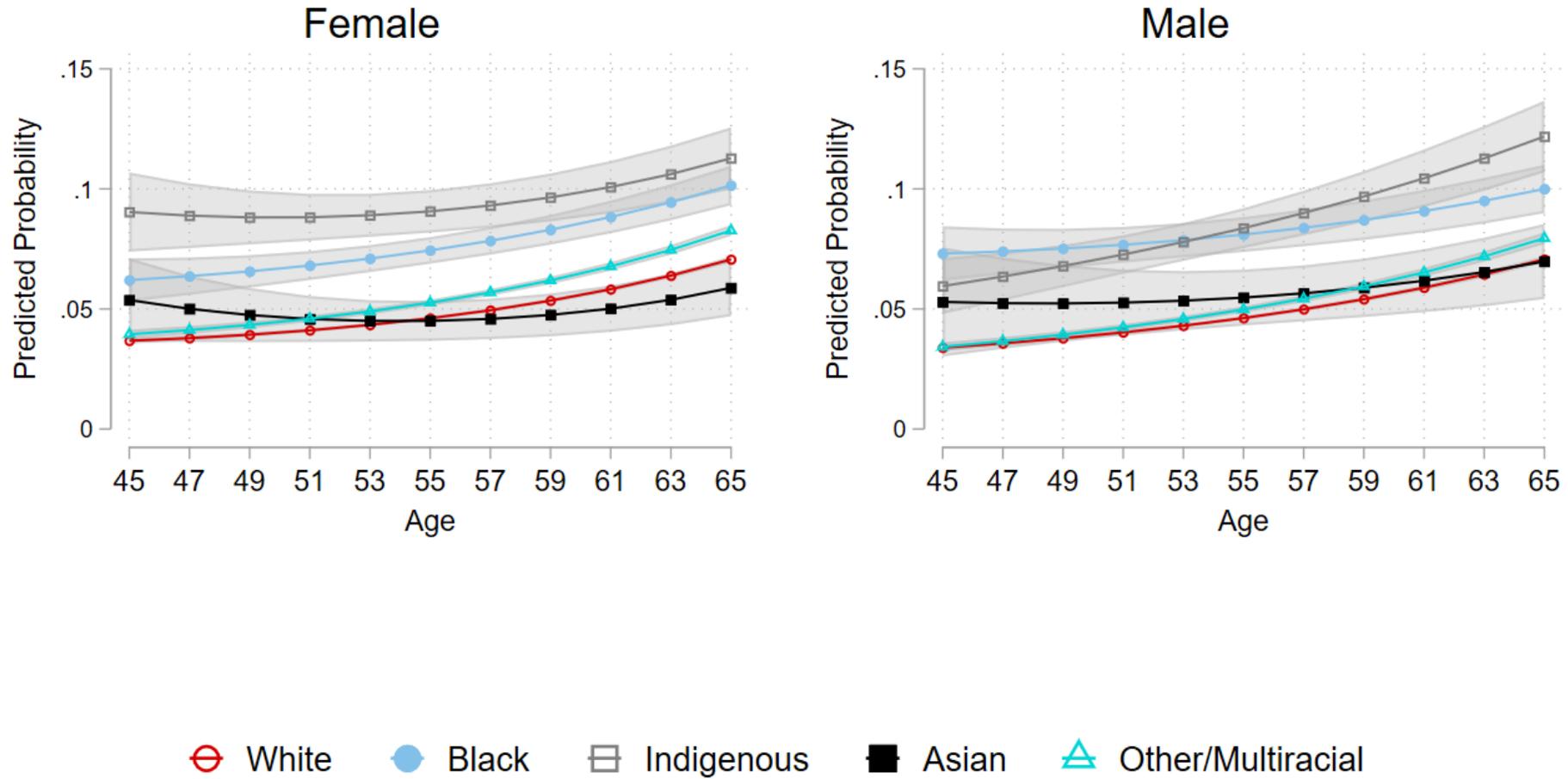
Race

# Ambulatory Difficulty



Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

# Cognitive Difficulty



Data: American Community Survey, 2008-2019.

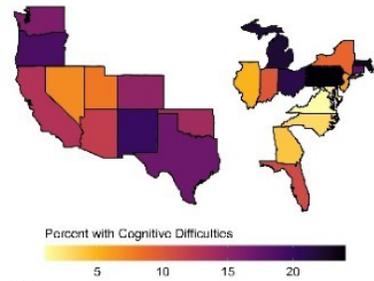
# Summary

## Latinos are not a monolithic group!!!

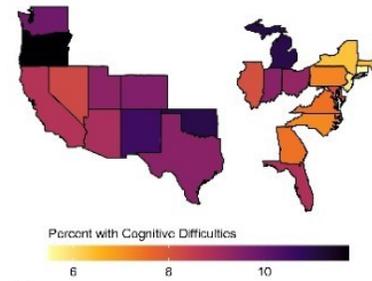
- Differing *cultural, socioeconomic, migratory*, and *behavioral* experiences have lasting effects that contribute to varied patterns of disability risk among Latino subgroups.
- Researchers should use a **gendered intersectional life course** approach that considers diversity along *multiple dimensions* such as **race/ethnicity, nativity, and country of origin** when assessing disability risk among Latinos.

# State Contexts Matter

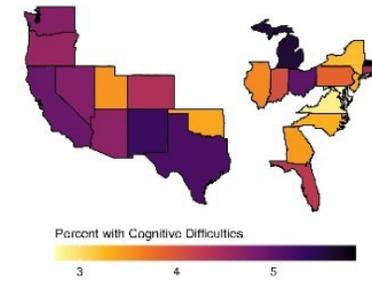
Panel A:  
All Latinos



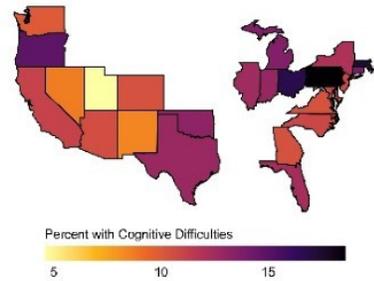
Panel B:  
U.S. Born Mexicans



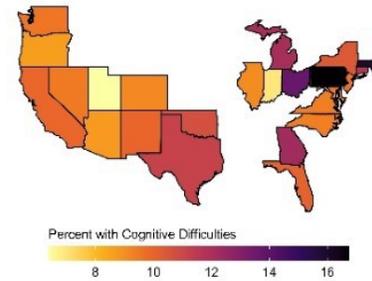
Panel C:  
Foreign-Born Mexicans



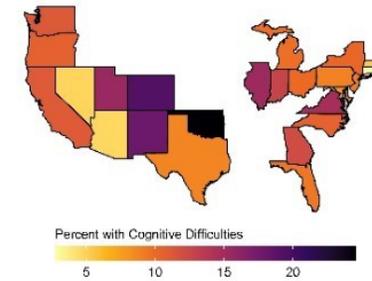
Panel D:  
U.S. Born Puerto Ricans



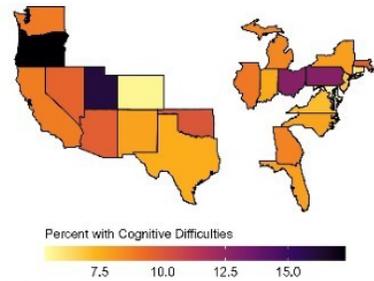
Panel E:  
Island-Born Puerto Ricans



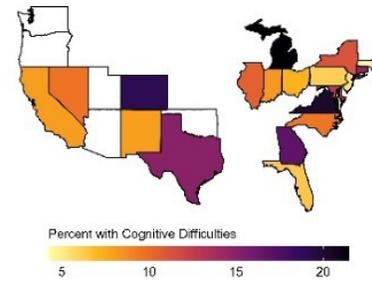
Panel F:  
U.S. Born Cubans



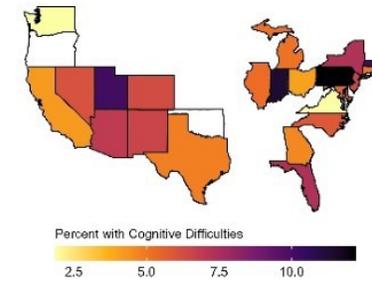
Panel G:  
Foreign-Born Cubans



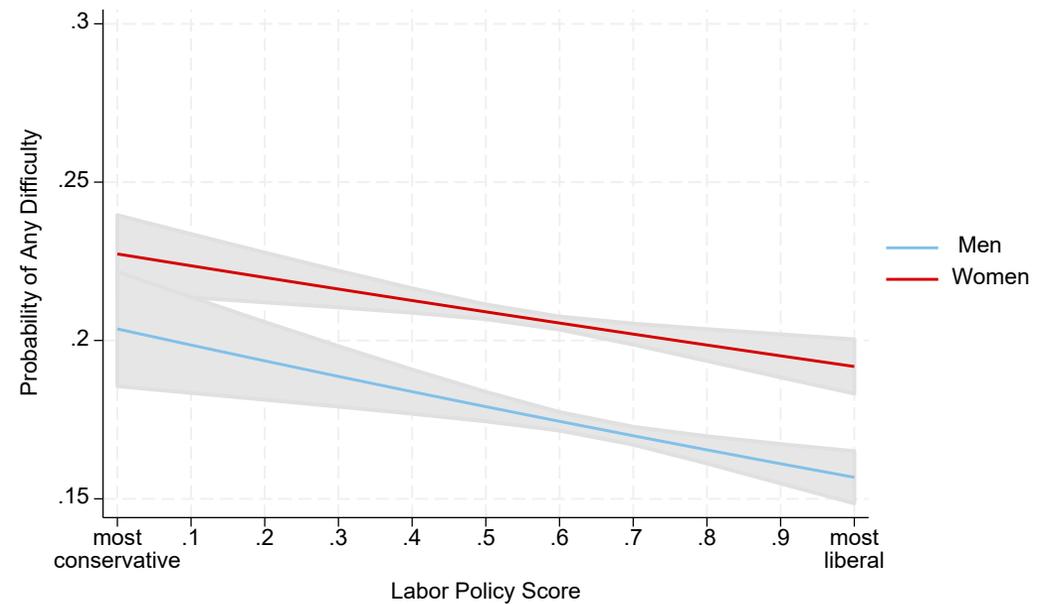
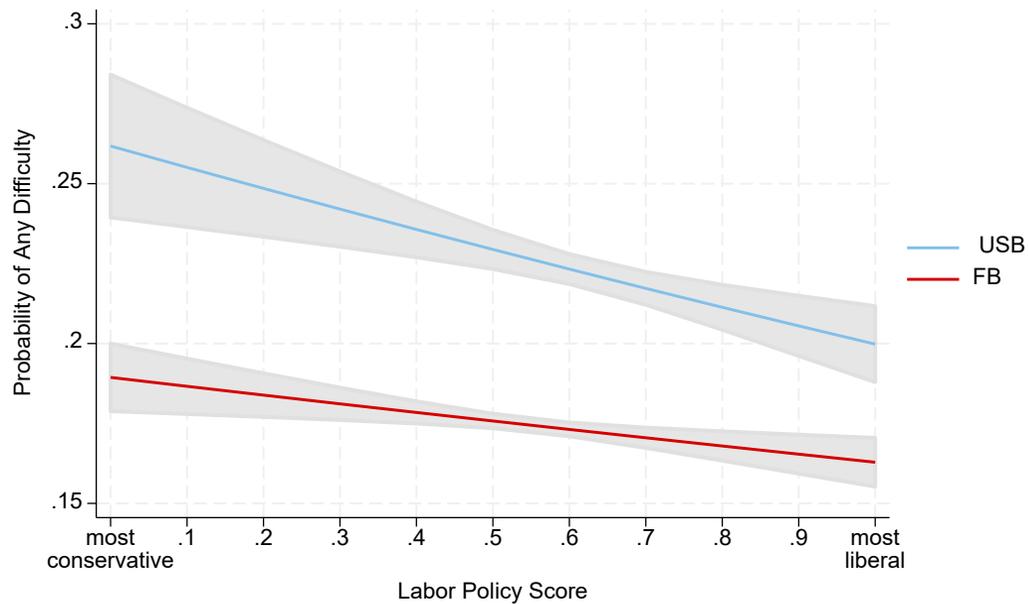
Panel H:  
U.S. Born Dominicans



Panel I:  
Foreign-Born Dominicans



# State Private Labor Policy Predicting Any Difficulty





## Contact Information

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