

Measuring Health Equity at the National Center for Health Statistics

The Ecosystem of Health Equity Measures: A Workshop

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

June 21st, 2023

Amy M. Branum ambranum@cdc.gov

Associate Director for Science

National Center for Health Statistics

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

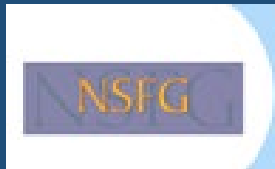
NCHS Data Systems



**National Vital
Statistics
System**



**National
Survey of
Family Growth**



**National
Health
Interview
Survey**



**National
Health and
Nutrition
Examination
Survey**



**National
Health Care
Surveys**



NCHS and health disparities – a long history

Hearing Levels of Adults

by Race, Region, and
Area of Residence

United States - 1960 - 1962

Distribution by race, region, area, age, and sex of hearing thresholds for the better ear in excess of 15 decibels and 5 decibels or more below audiometric zero as determined by pure-tone air-conduction audiometric tests at frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, and 6000 cycles per second.

advancedata
FROM VITAL & HEALTH STATISTICS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE • Public Health Service | Number 32 • August 22, 1978

Sociodemographic and Health Characteristics of Persons
by Private Health Insurance Coverage and
Type of Plan: United States, 1975¹

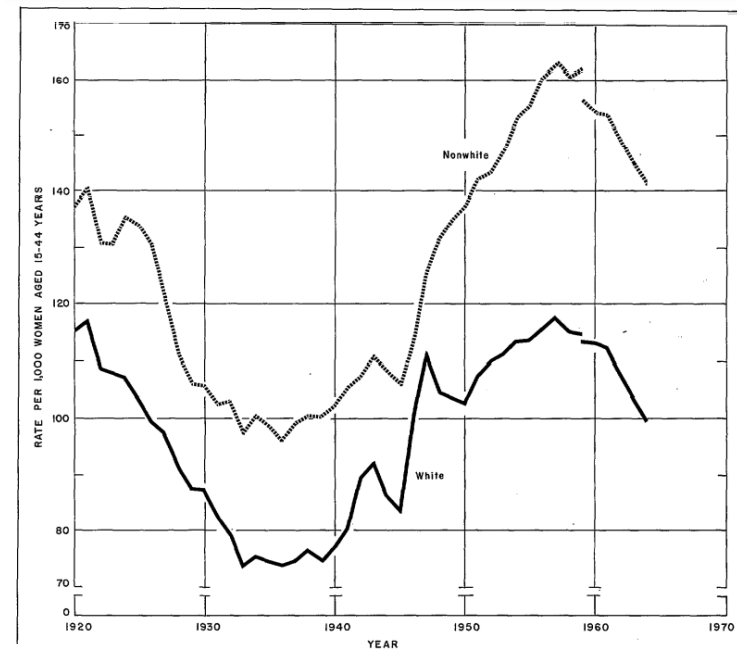


Figure 6. Fertility rates by color.
1000 women aged 15-44 years. For 1959-64 based on registered live births; for 1920-59, on live births adjusted for underregistration)

HEALTH STATISTICS

FROM THE U. S. NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

selected health characteristics by area

Geographic Divisions and
Large Metropolitan Areas

United States
July 1957-June 1959

Number 10
September 1995



HEALTHY
PEOPLE
2000

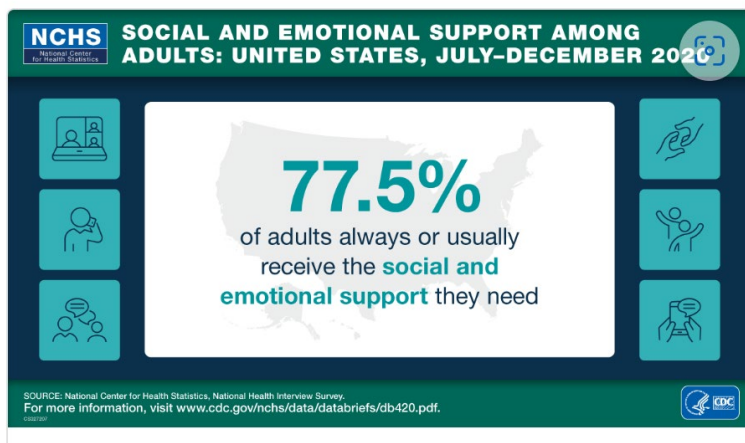
Statistical
Notes

From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

Health Status Indicators: Differentials by
Race and Hispanic Origin

Christine Plepys and Richard Klein

Health disparity and equity measurement remains a priority

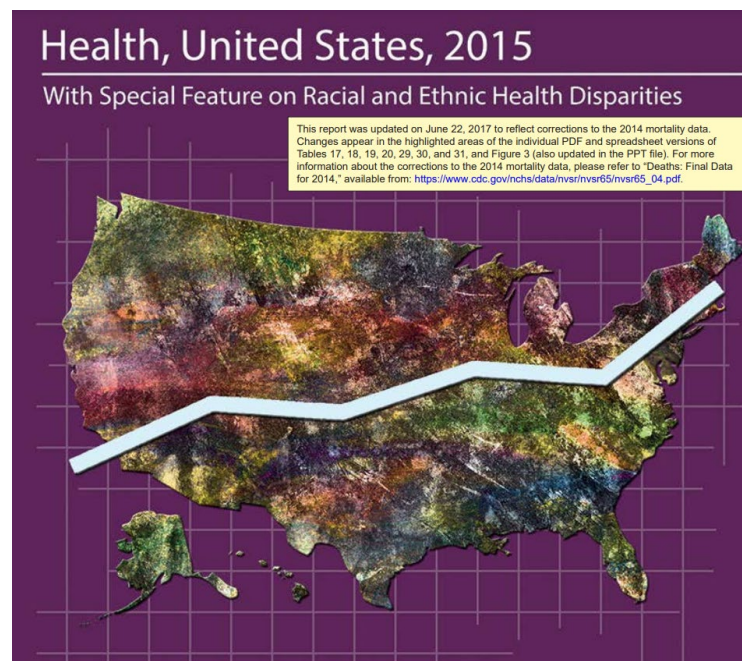


National Health Statistics Reports

Number 171 ■ May 25, 2022

Sexual Orientation Differences in Access to Care and Health Status, Behaviors, and Beliefs: Findings from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, National Survey of Family Growth, and National Health Interview Survey

by Kevin C. Heslin, Ph.D., and Johanna M. Alfier, M.P.H.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Health E-Stats

MARCH
2021

Drug Poisoning Mortality, by State and by Race and Ethnicity: United States, 2019

by Arialdi M. Miniño, M.P.H., and Holly Hedegaard, M.D.

Healthy People Statistical Notes

Number 27



February 2016

Measuring Progress Toward Target Attainment and the Elimination of Health Disparities in Healthy People 2020

by Makram Talih, Ph.D.; and David T. Huang, Ph.D., M.P.H., C.P.H., Office of Analysis and Epidemiology

National Health Statistics Reports

Number 154 ■ April 28, 2021

Race and Hispanic-origin Disparities in Underlying Medical Conditions Associated With Severe COVID-19 Illness: U.S. Adults, 2015–2018

Christine Kim, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., Bryan Stierman, M.D., M.P.H.,
Craig M. Hales, M.D., M.P.H., and Cynthia L. Ogden, Ph.D., M.R.P.

NCHS Data Brief ■ No. 221 ■ November 2015

How Does Cause of Death Contribute to the Hispanic Mortality Advantage in the United States?

Elizabeth Arias, Ph.D.; Kenneth D. Kochanek, M.A.; and Robert N. Anderson, Ph.D.

CDC's CORE Commitment

CDC's CORE Commitment to Equity

CDC launched an agency-wide strategy to integrate equity into the fabric of all we do



Cultivate comprehensive health equity science

- CDC embeds health equity principles in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its research, data, surveillance, and intervention strategies



Optimize interventions

- CDC uses scientific, innovative, and data-driven strategies that address environmental, place-based, occupational, policy and systemic factors that impact health outcomes and address drivers of health disparities



Reinforce and expand robust partnerships

- CDC seeks out and strengthens sustainable multi-level, multi-sectoral and community partnerships to advance health equity



Enhance capacity and workplace diversity, inclusion, and engagement

- CDC builds internal capacity to cultivate a multi-disciplinary workforce and more inclusive climates, policies, and practices for broader public health impact



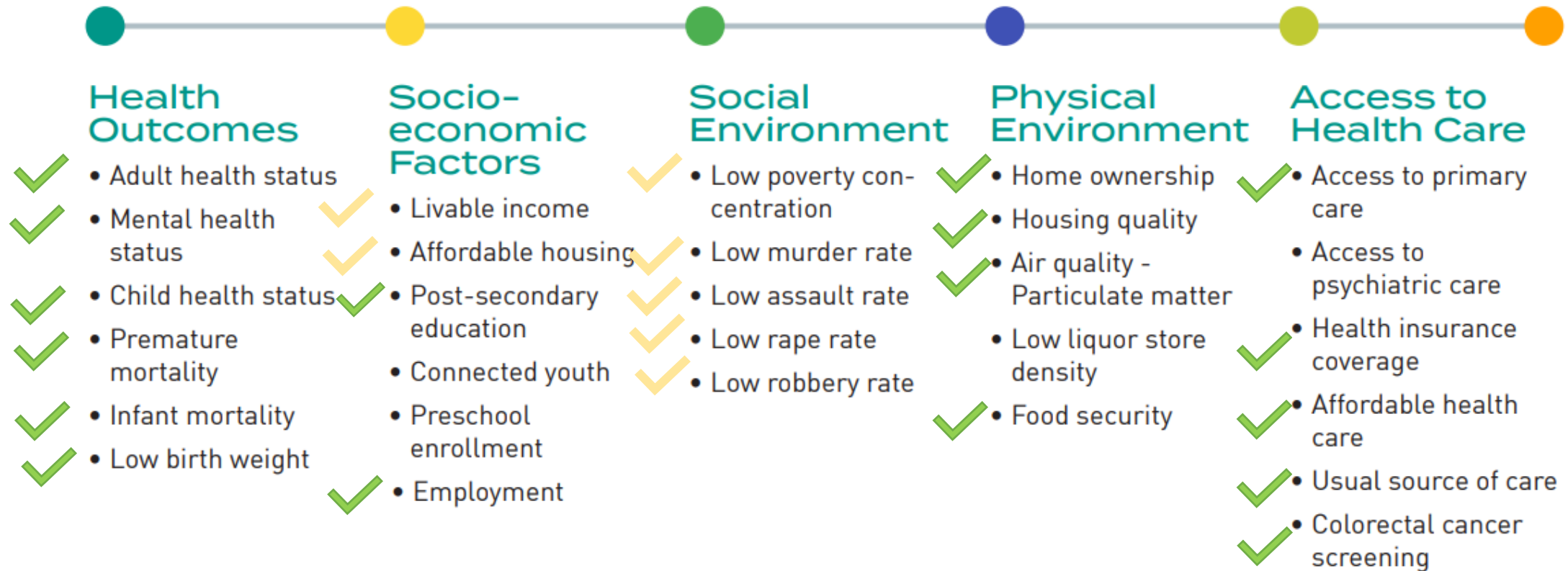
CDC CORE HEALTH EQUITY SCIENCE AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY

[Print](#)



Examples of NCHS health equity measures

The HOPE Initiative Measures



✓ Measured directly with NCHS data

✓ Can be measured in conjunction with other data

Challenges

Reality – a nationally representative survey cannot include all minority groups at the level that is needed for detailed analyses

Issues with both statistical reliability and disclosure risk

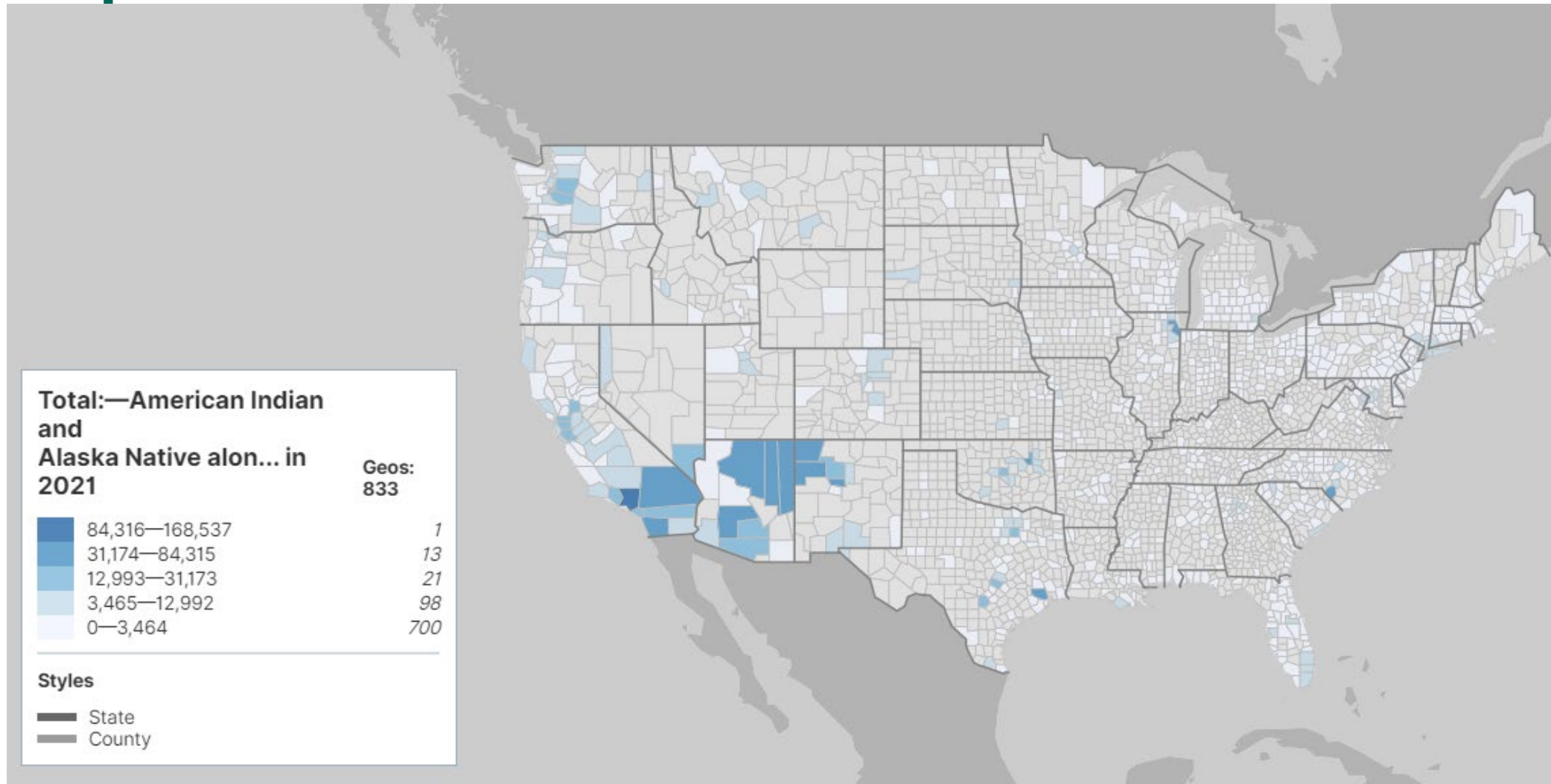
Changes in what states agree to or can provide (vital statistics)

Changes in survey content sponsorship results in lack of consecutive measurement

Issues with statistical reliability and disclosure risk

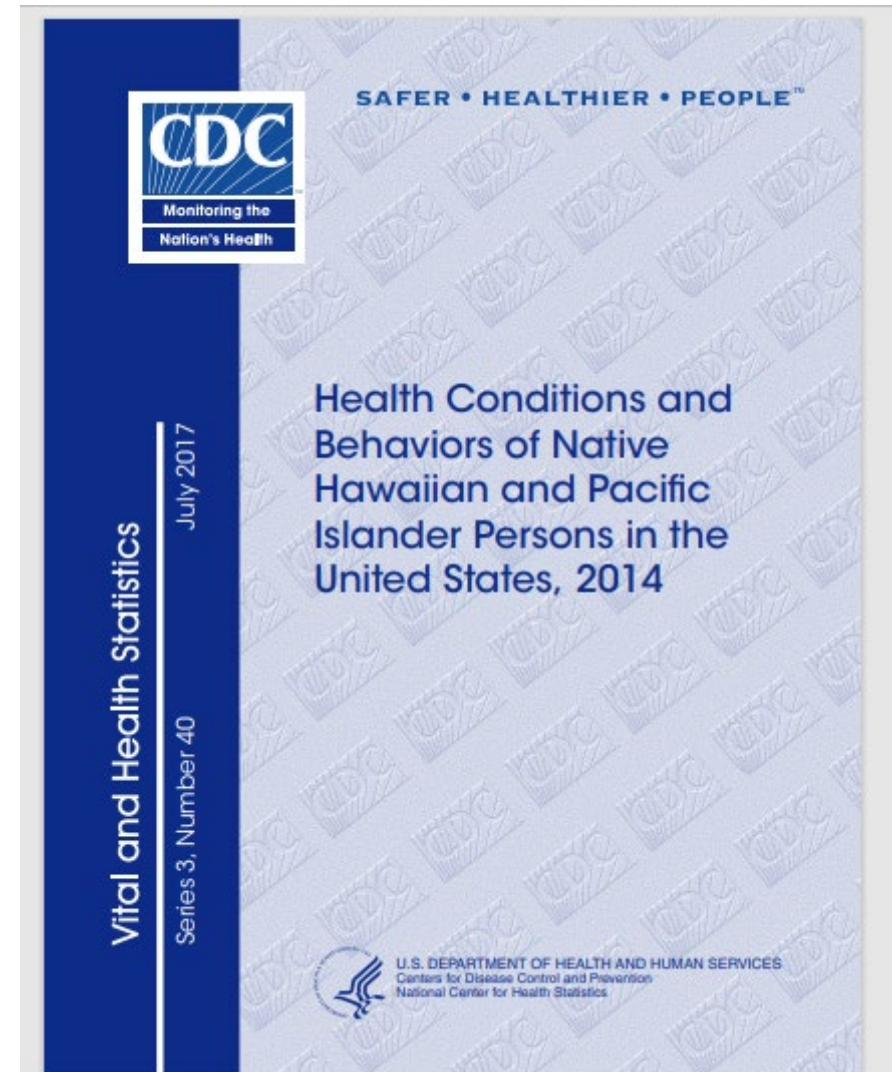
Discontinuity over time with race/ethnicity standards

Distribution of American Indian/Alaska Native Population

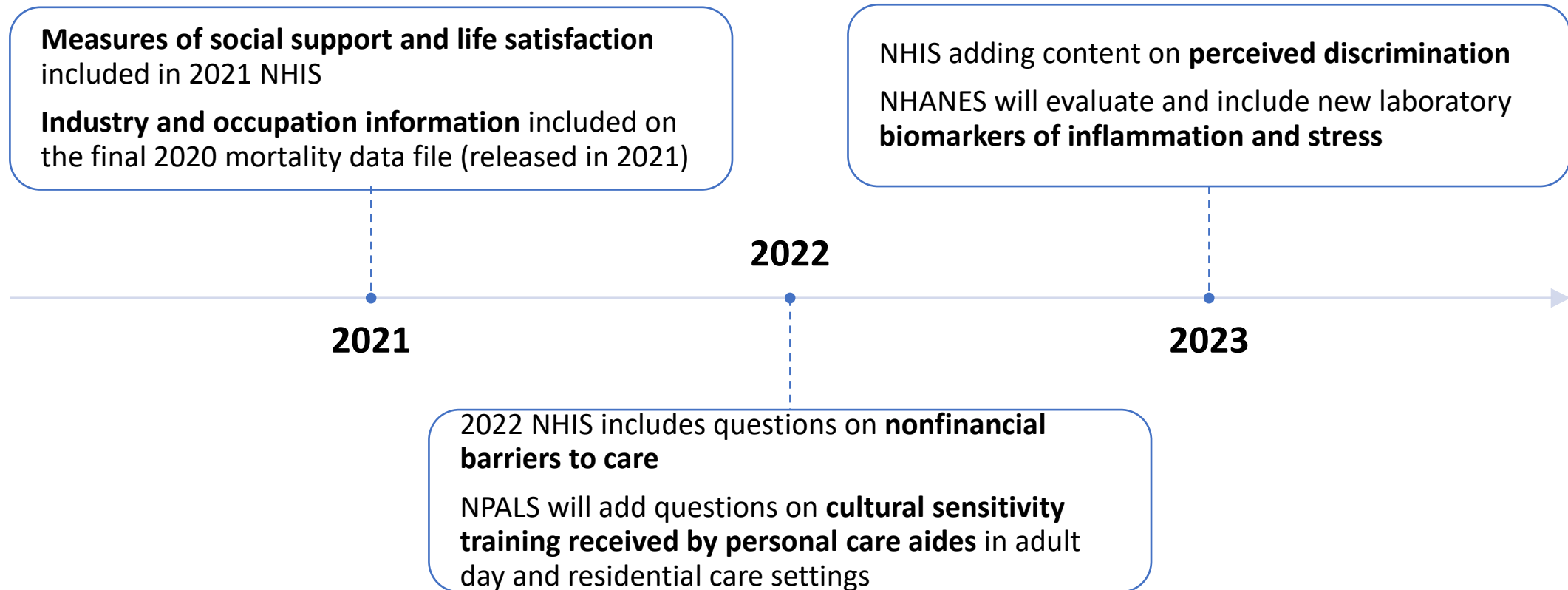


Source: 2021 Census American Community Survey 1-year Estimates

One answer - targeted surveys



Increasing focus on SDOH and “non-traditional” measures



Current SPD 15 revisions



Current review's scope

WHY REVIEW SPD 15 NOW?

Increase of “Some Other Race” reporting on decennial census and American Community Survey

Many Middle Eastern and North African respondents view their identity as distinct from the White racial category

Need for disaggregated data to better understand within-group disparities and outcomes

Inconsistent and outdated terminology



January 2023 Federal Register Notice – initial proposals

Collecting race and ethnicity information using one combined question

Adding “Middle Eastern or North African” (MENA) as a new minimum category

Requiring the collection of detailed race and ethnicity categories by default

Updating SPD 15’s terminology, definitions, and question wording

Placing SPD 15 and its related documents online in a central location and include implementation guidance

Proposed combined race and ethnicity question

CURRENT

“Are you Hispanic or Latino?”

And

“What is your race? <`Mark' or
`Select'> one or more”

PROPOSED

What is your race or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

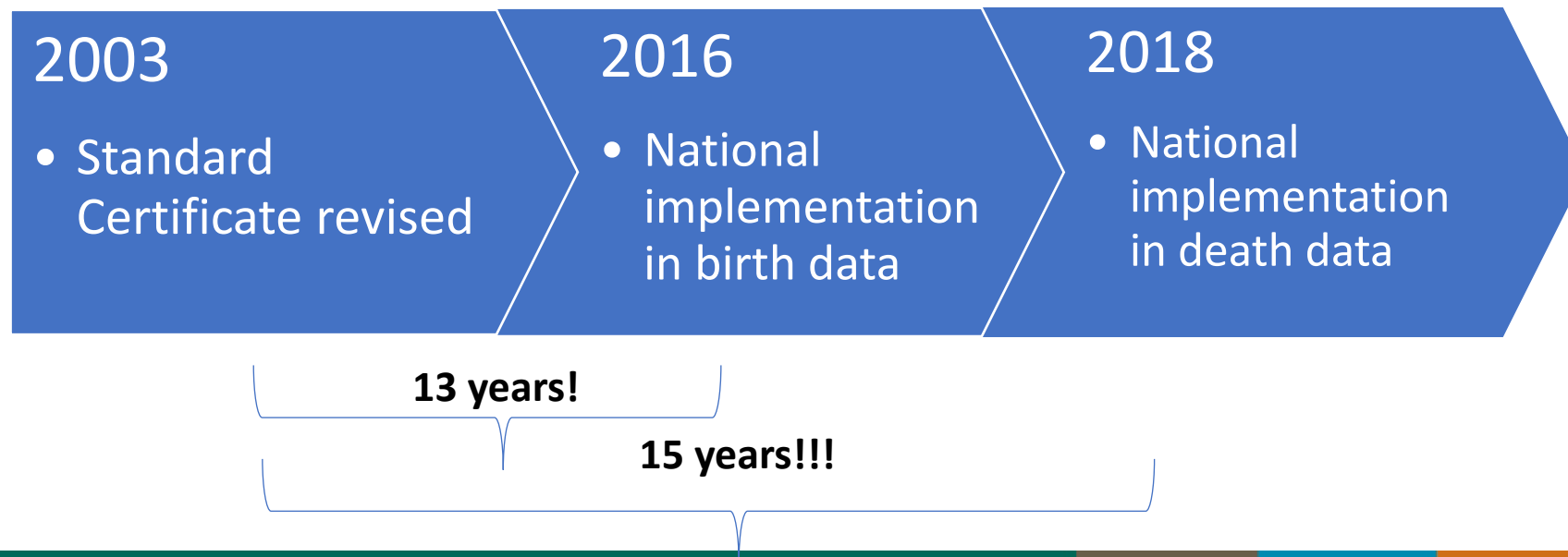
- ☐ White
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Implementation - vitals

57 jurisdictions have different vital registration systems

Switch to 1997 standards tied to Standard Certificate revision process

Each jurisdiction also had varying resources to implement changes



Implementation – Electronic Health Records

EHRs often missing data on race and ethnicity

Dependent on how race and ethnicity is captured in medical records and EHR systems

Non-governmental organizations not required to use the OMB standards

May not implement new standards or implement in a timely way

Would also ultimately hamper NCHS' analyses and dissemination of race/eth data



Ramifications

Bridged race and single race estimates are not comparable which prevents trending

How to incorporate changes in race/ethnicity standards without going through the whole revision process for vitals?

How to reconcile data from EHR providers?



Resources

NCHS Fact Sheet - [NCHS Fact Sheet \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/factsheets)

NHIS Interactive Health Estimates by Detailed Race and Hispanic Origin Groups - [NHIS-Detailed Race and Ethnicity Summary Health Statistics \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/detailed-race-ethnicity-summary-health-statistics)

Health US Annual Perspective featuring Health Disparities - [Health, United States, 2020–2021: Annual Perspective \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/health-us/2020-2021)

NCHS Data Linkage Program - [NCHS Data Linkage -Activities \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-linkage)

NCHS Publications - [Products - Publications and Information Products from the National Center for Health Statistics \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products)

CDC CORE Health Equity Science and Intervention Strategy - [CDC CORE HEALTH EQUITY SCIENCE AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY | Health Equity | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/core-health-equity-science-and-intervention-strategy)