

# Poverty and Health of Children from Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Families

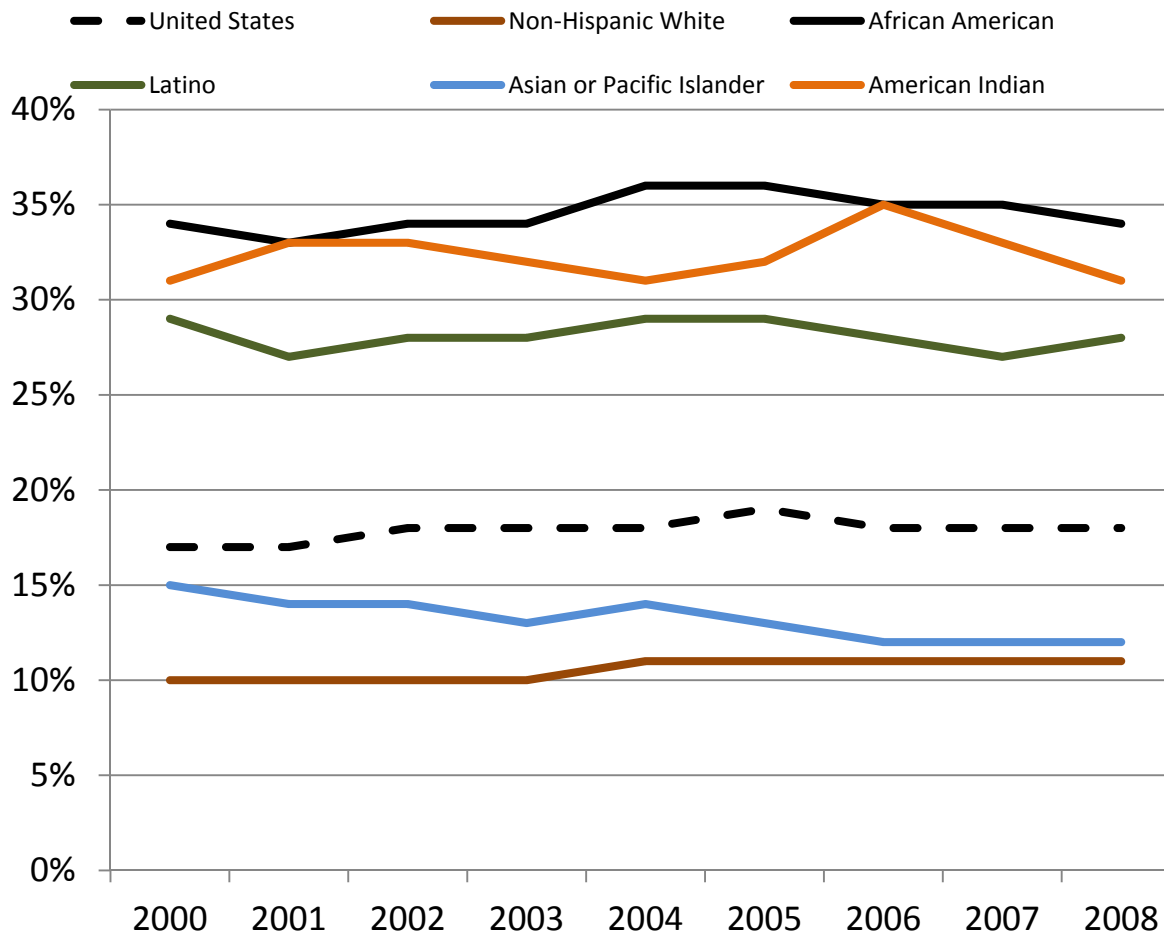
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*Cambio De Colores: Latinos in the Heartland, May 24-26, 2010, Columbia, Missouri*

# Consequences of Child Poverty

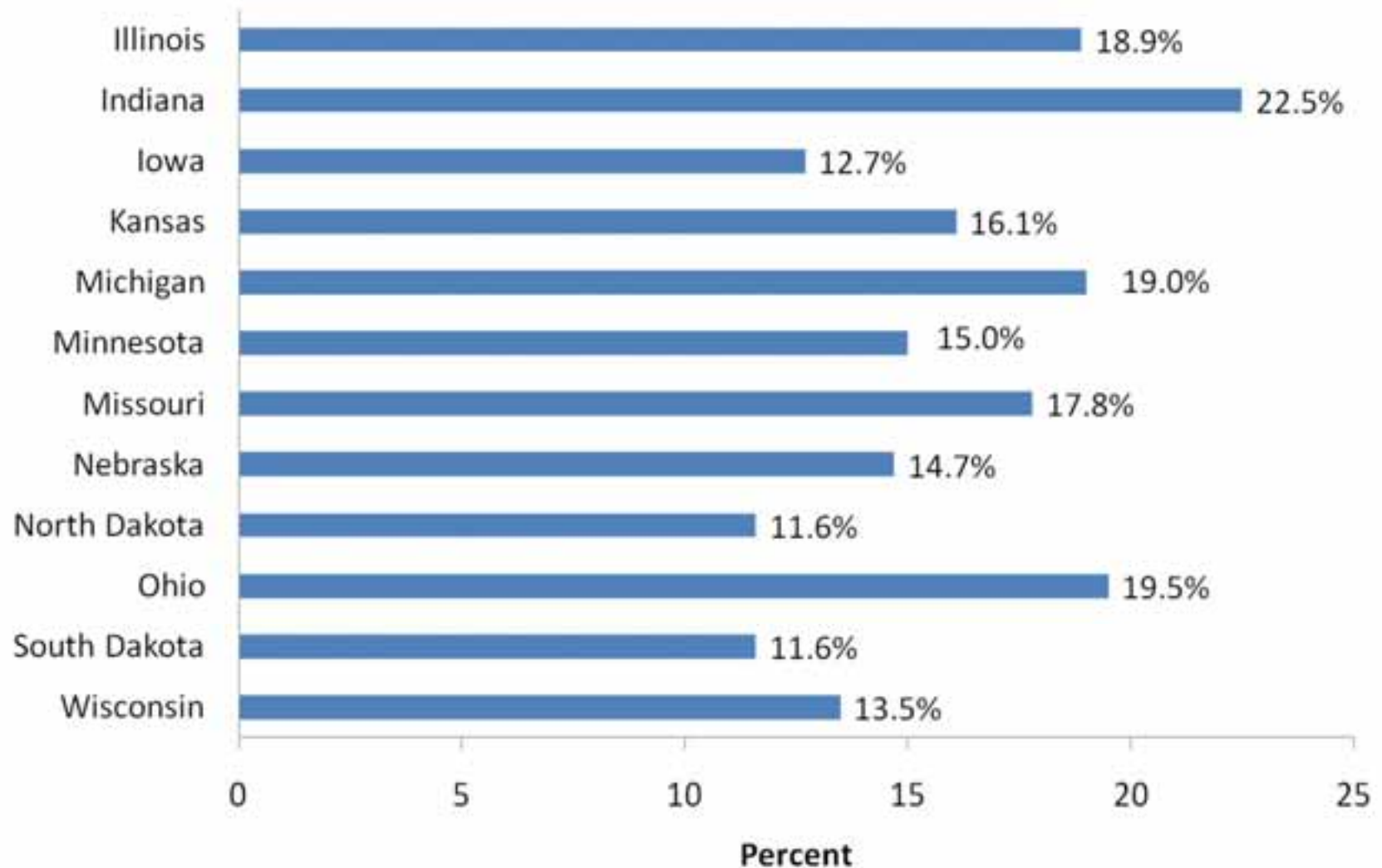
- Physical health (e.g., physical growth, low-birth weight birth, child mortality, lead poisoning, and short-stay hospital episode)
- Educational achievement (e.g., grade repetition, dropping out high school, learning disability, and cognitive development (e.g., reading ability and test scores))
- Emotional and behavioral problems and depression
- Other consequences:
  - Teenage out-of-wedlock birth
  - Child abuse and neglect
  - Violent crime
  - Later adult productivity
  - Welfare dependency (state and federal \$)
  - Global competitive disadvantage of tomorrow's adults

# Incidence of Child Poverty in the United States

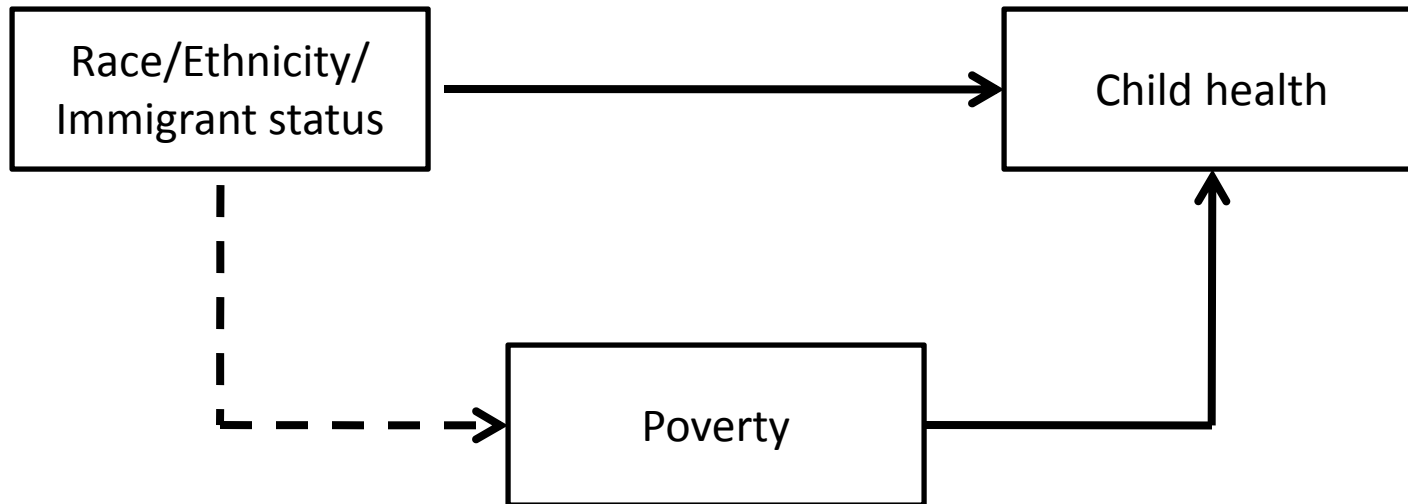


- Levels 2008
  - 18%
  - 2.5 x as high among Latinos (28%) as non-Hispanic Whites (11%)
  - 3.1 x as high among African Americans (34%) as non-Hispanic Whites (11%)
  - 2.8 times as high among American Indian (31%) as non-Hispanic Whites (11%)
- Reducing child poverty is a national priority

# Incidence of Child Poverty in the Midwest by State, 2009

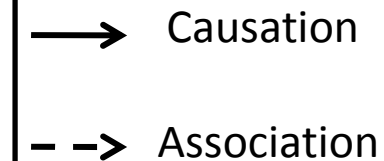


# Relations among Race/Ethnicity, Poverty, and Child Health



## Controls:

- Household structure
- Parental education
- Parental employment
- Parental age
- Health insurance coverage
- Metro/nonmetro residence
- Child sex and age

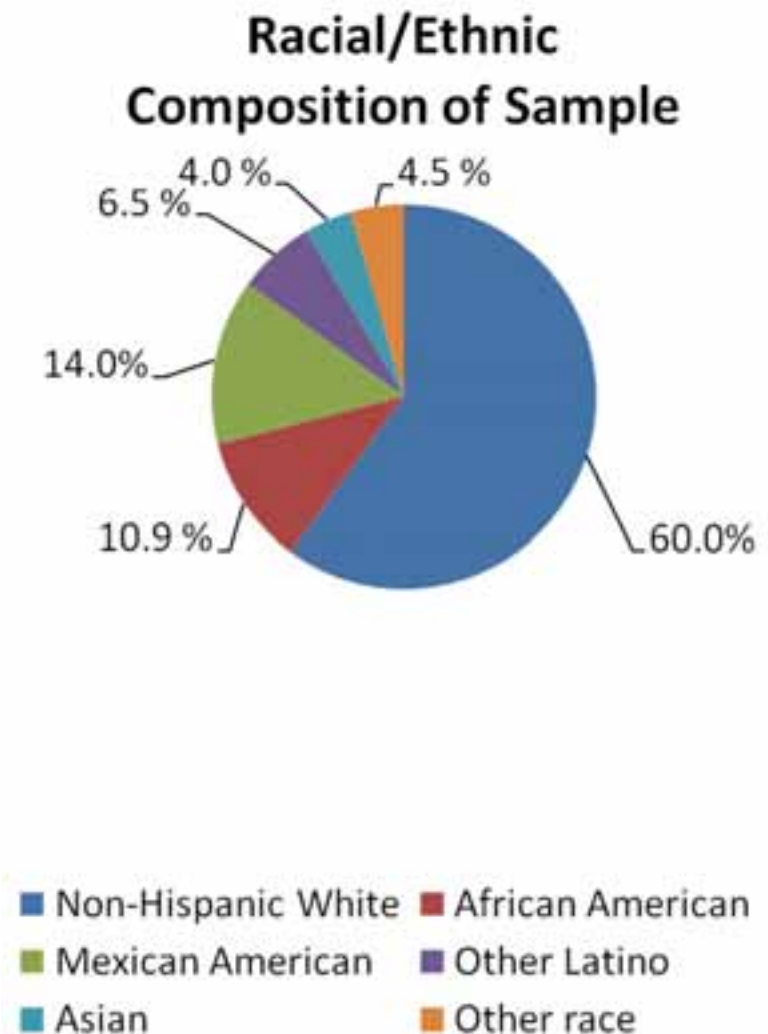


# Research Hypotheses

- Increased exposure to poverty among children is associated with poor health
- Latino, especially Mexican American, and African American children experience greater poverty and suffer poor health than non-Hispanic White children
- Second generation immigrant children are more likely to experience poor health than first or higher generation children
- The more difficult conditions faced by poor Latinos, African American, and Asian families leads to worse health among their children compared to non-Latino White children with equivalent poverty levels

# CPS -- ASEC Data, 2007-2009

- Current Population Surveys (CPS)
  - National sample of about 50,000 households
    - Representative of United States, individual states, and other specified areas
- The Annual Social and Economic (ASEC)
  - Basic CPS monthly demographic and labor force data + data on work experience, income, noncash benefits, and migration
- The ASEC is supplemented with a sample of Hispanic households ~ 4,500 households



# Variables

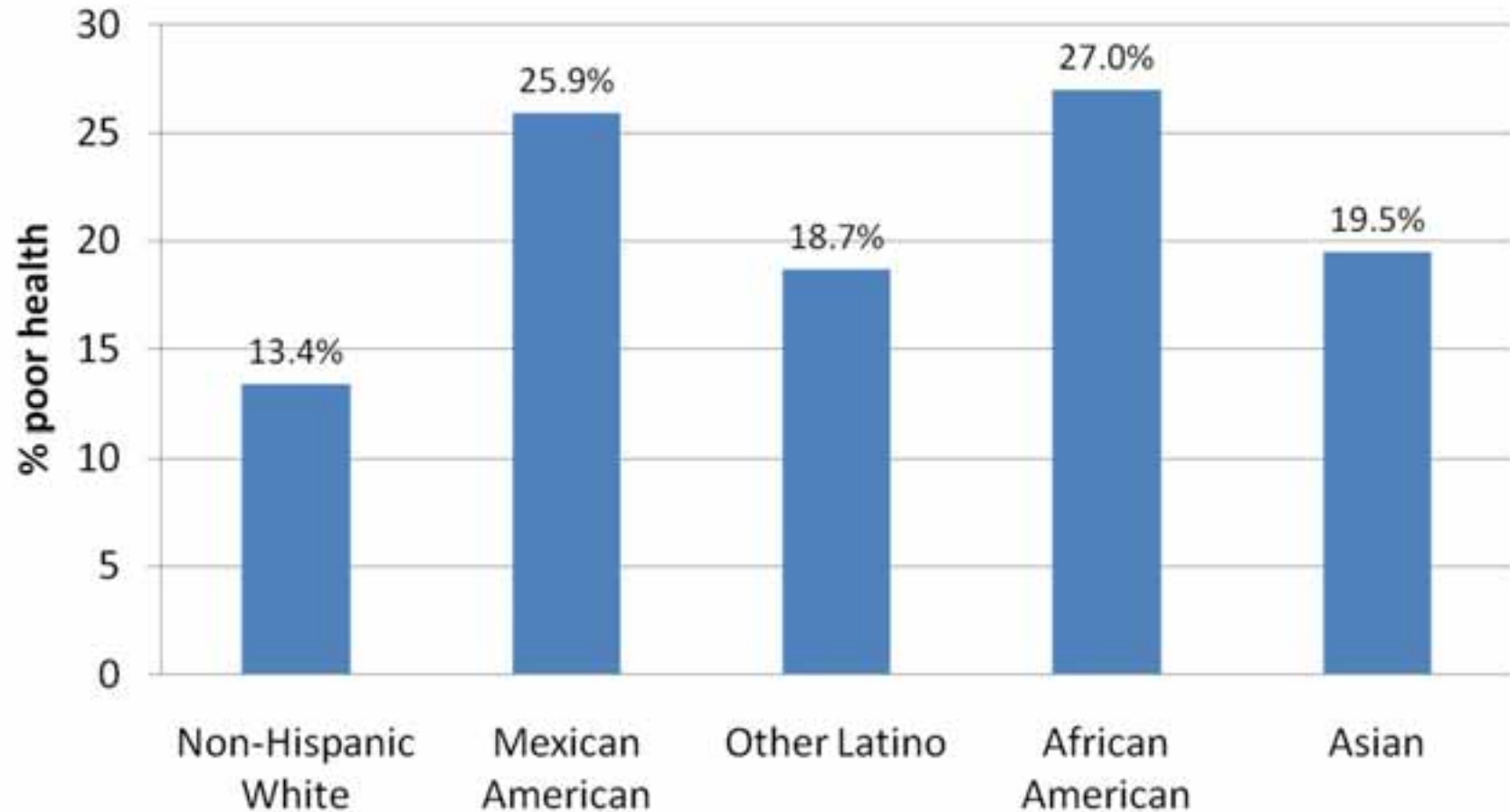
- **Child health:**
  - Would you say in general your health is..
    - Excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor
  - Classified poor, fair, or good as “poor” health and very good or excellent as “better” health
    - Measure used in multivariate analyses
- **Child poverty:**
  - Family income-to-poverty ratio (IPR)
    - Family income in \$ compared against poverty level for family of same size and age composition
  - % poor used in multivariate analyses =  $IPR < 1.25$
- **Race/Ethnicity:**
  - Non-Hispanic White (reference)
  - Mexican American, Other Latino, African American, and Asian dummy variables
  - Other racial groups were excluded
- **Immigrant/generation status:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> generation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> generation
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> generation or higher (reference)
- **Other characteristics:**
  - Child sex; child age; household structure; parental education, employment status, and age; metro/nonmetro residence; and health insurance coverage



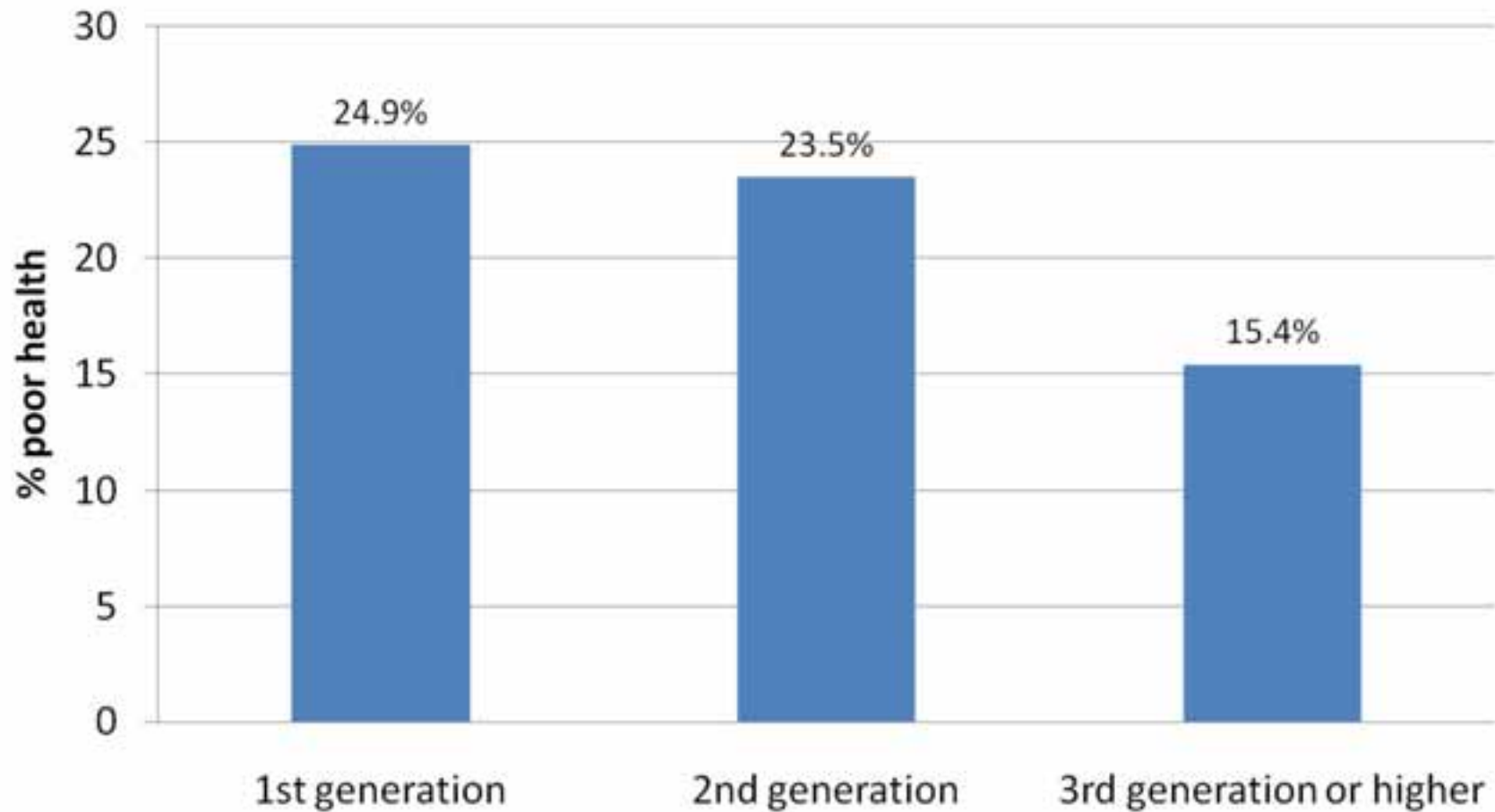
# Model Specifications

- Logistic regression of child poverty
- Logistic regression of child poor health
  - Model I
    - Race/Ethnicity and child age
  - Model II
    - Model I + immigrant/generation status + race/Ethnicity X immigrant/generation status
  - Model III
    - Model II + child poverty, race/ethnicity X child poverty
  - Model IV
    - Model III + Household structure
  - Model V
    - Model IV + Parental education
  - Model VI
    - Model V + Parental age, health insurance coverage, and metro/nonmetro residence

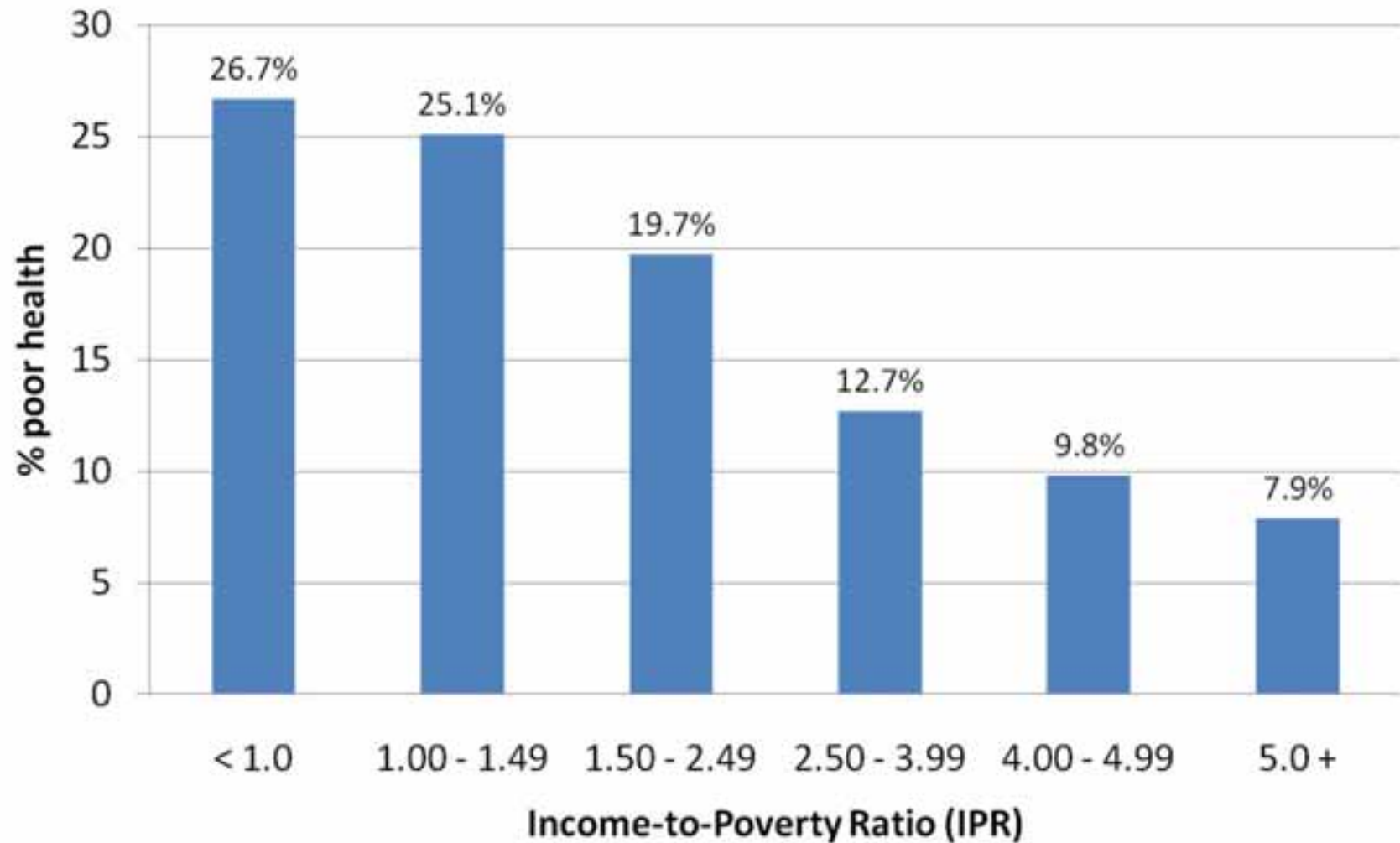
# Child Health by Race/Ethnicity



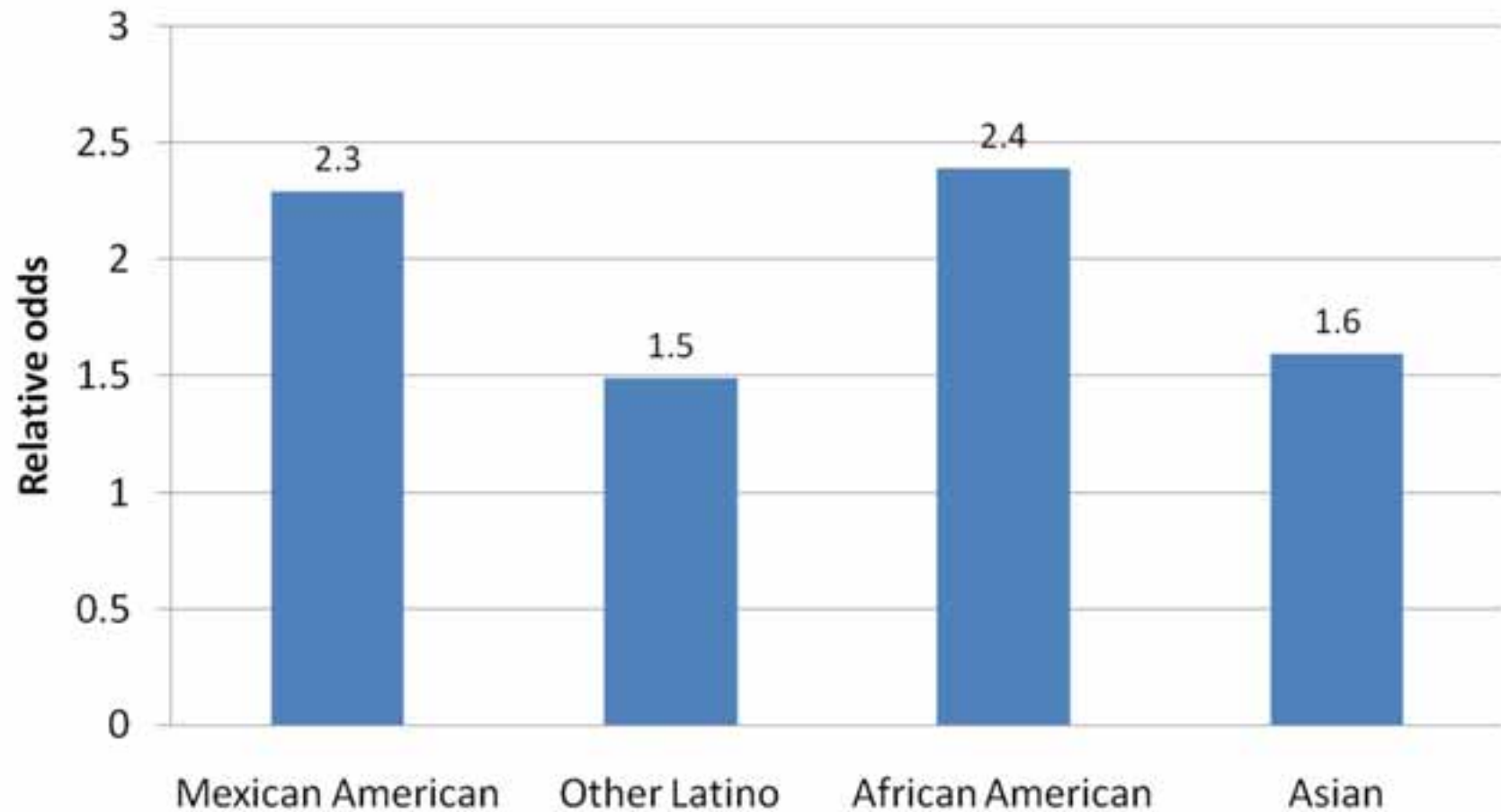
# Child Health by Immigrant/Generation Status



# Child Health by Poverty Status

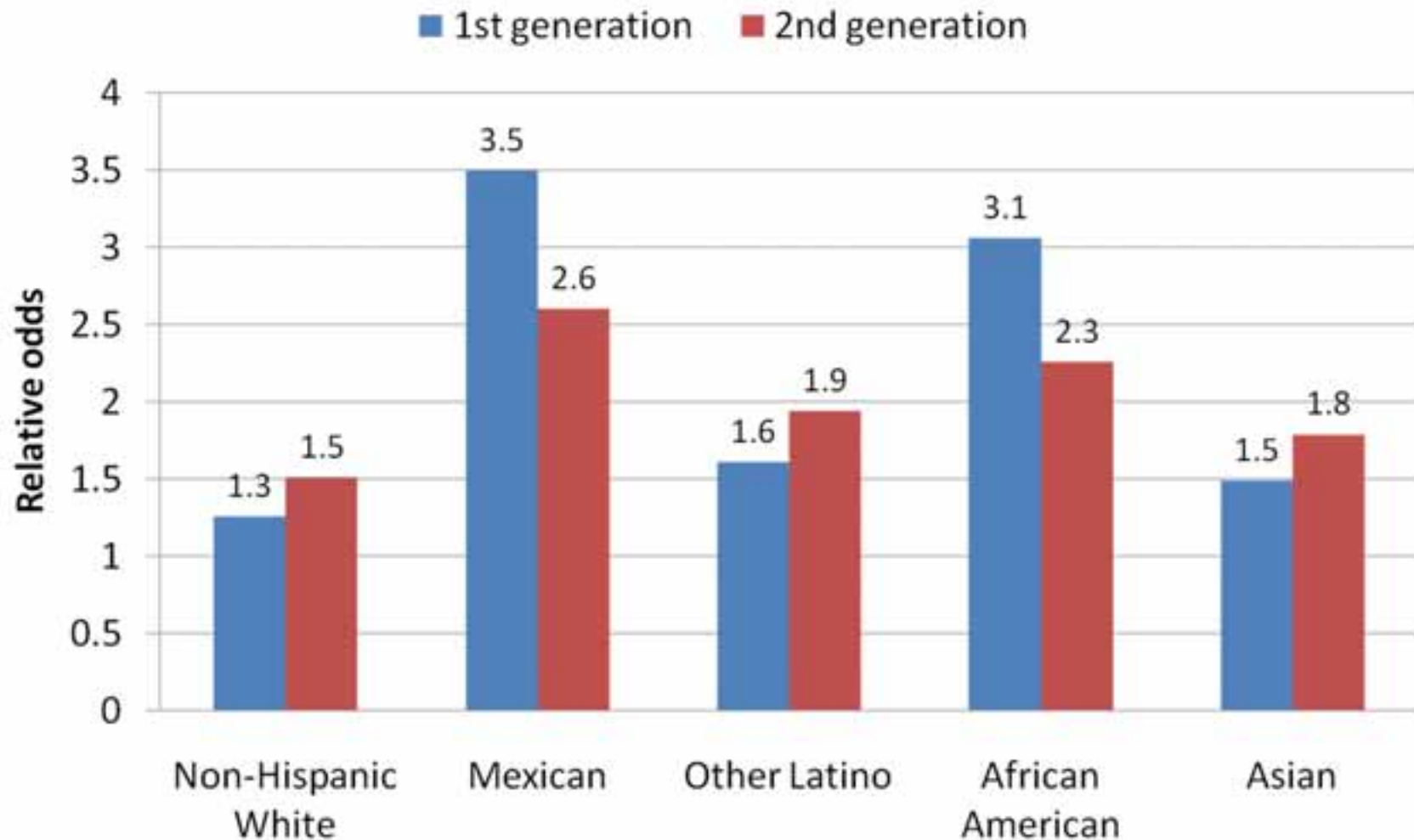


# Relative Odds of Child Poor Health by Race/Ethnicity\*



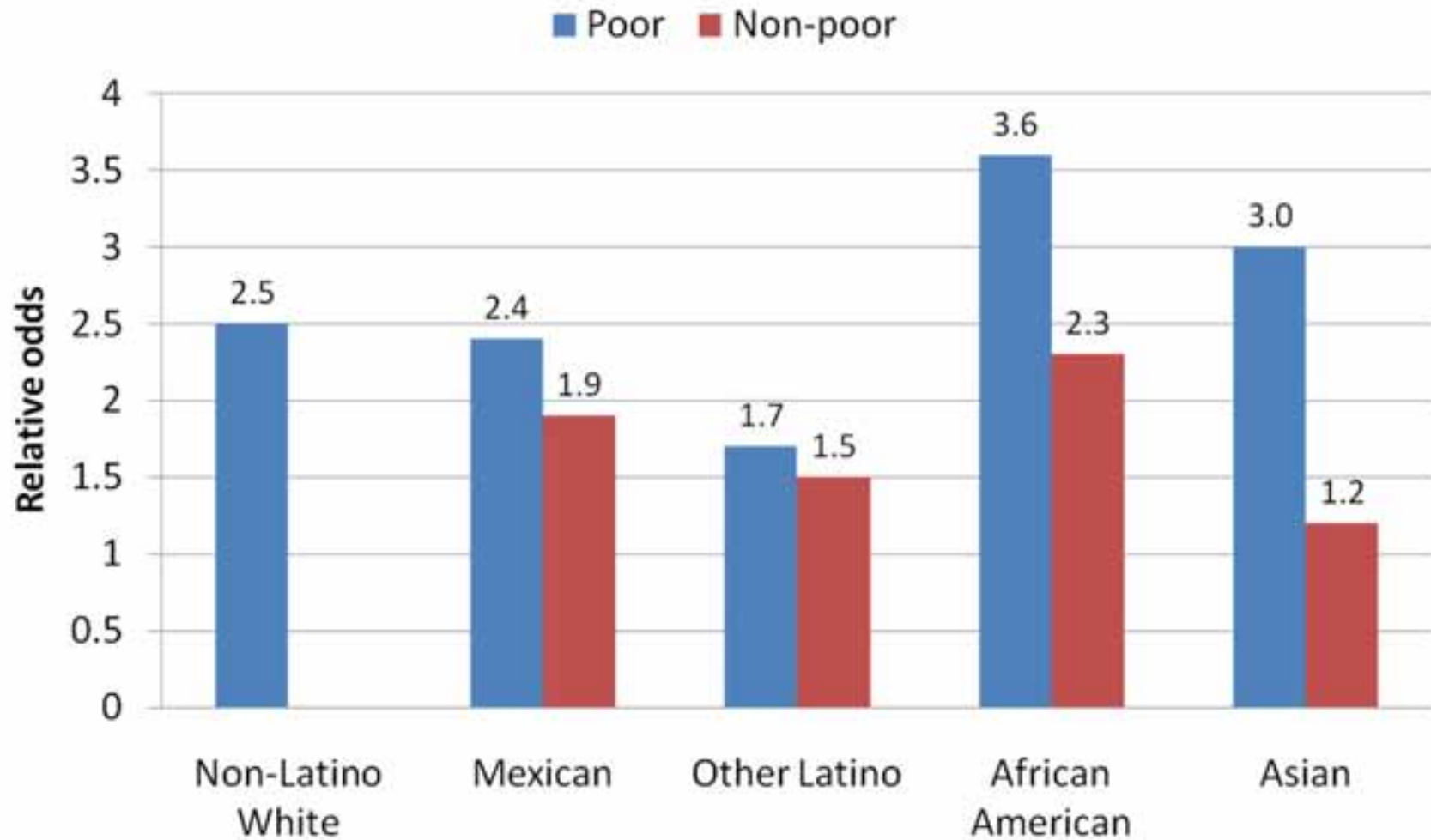
\* Controlling for age

# Relative Odds of Child Poor Health by Immigrant Status and Race/Ethnicity\*



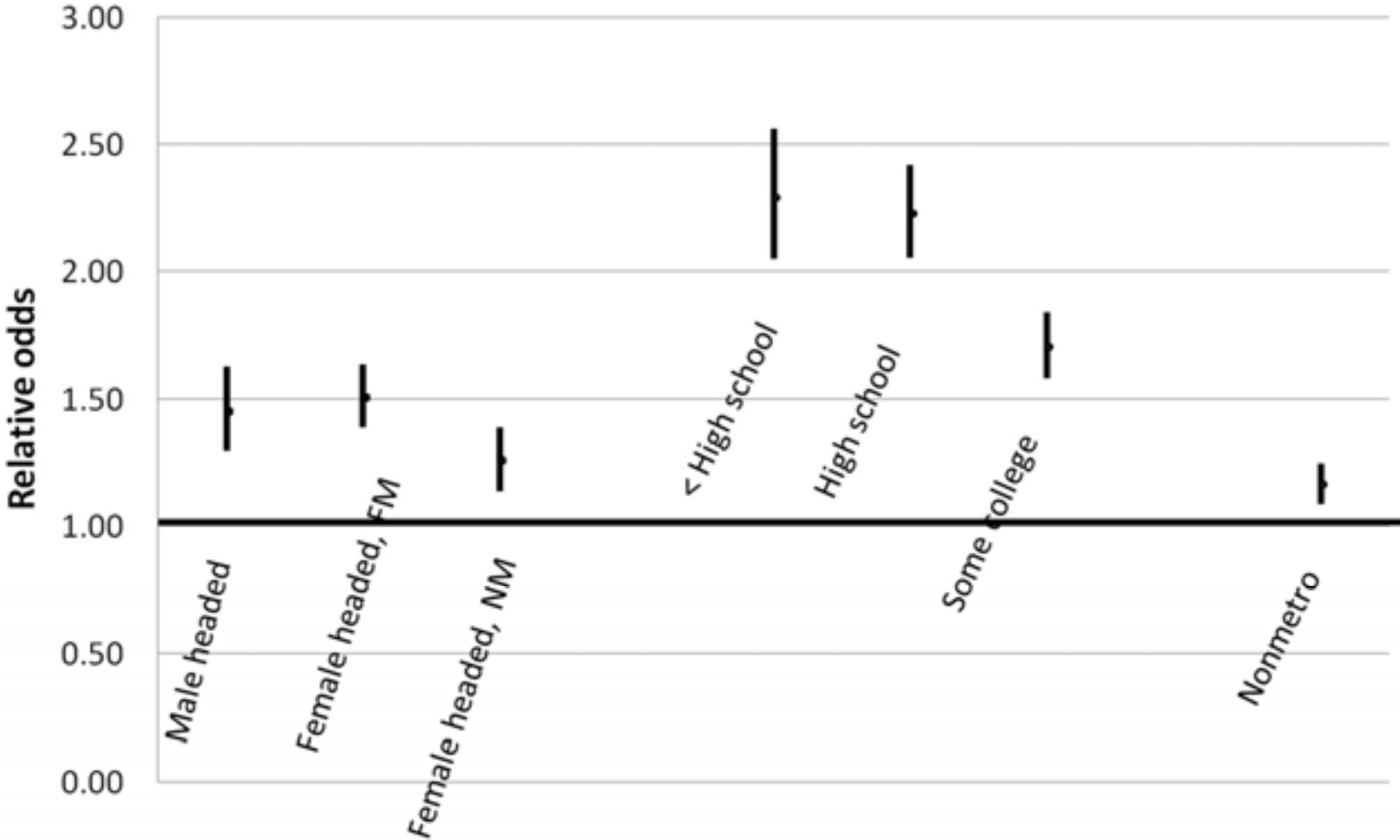
\* Compared to non-Hispanic White of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation or higher and controlling for age

# Relative Odds of Child Poor Health by Poverty and Race/Ethnicity\*



\* Controlling for age and immigrant status

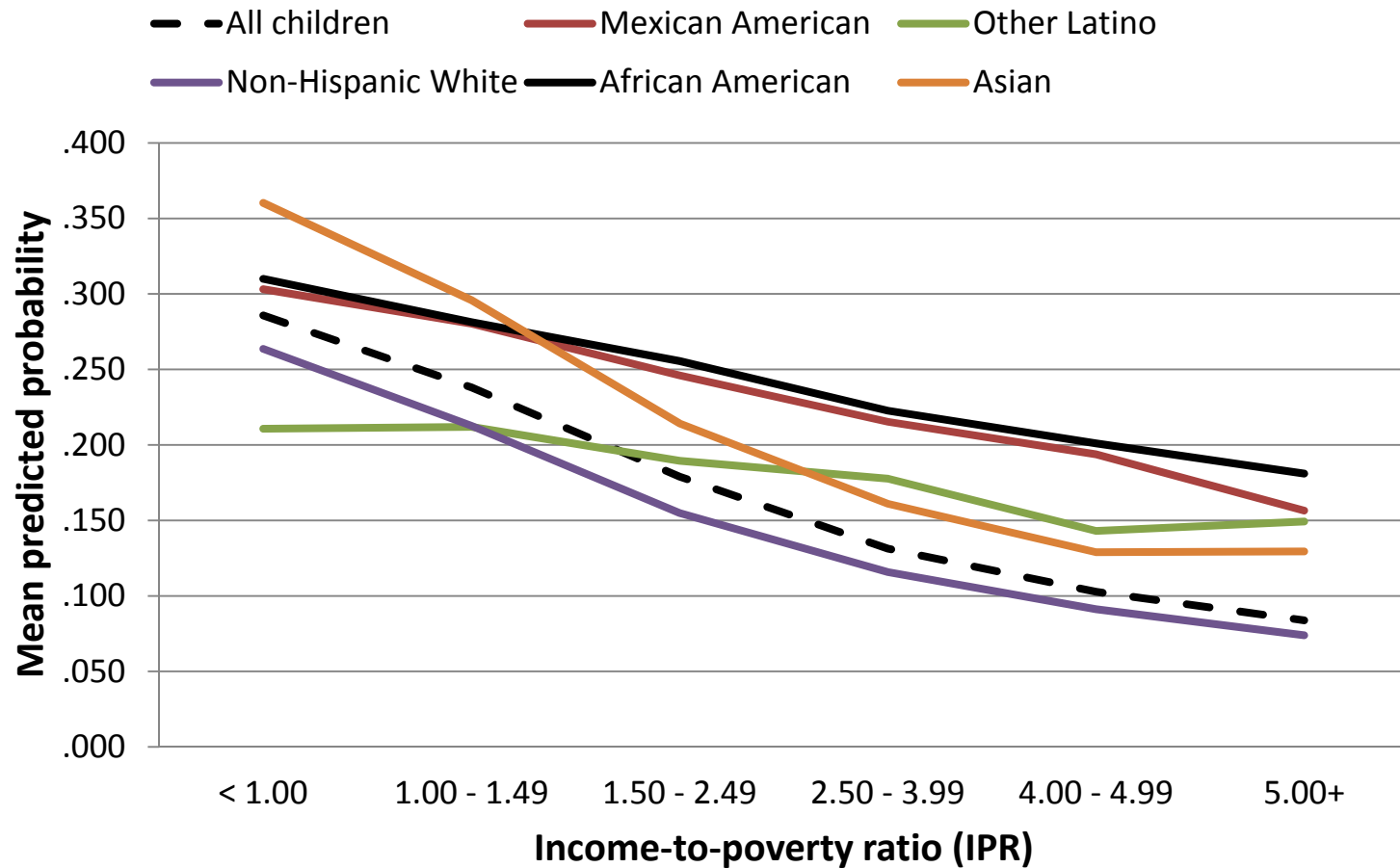
# Relative Odds of Child Poor Health by Household Structure, Parental Education, and Nonmetro Residence



Controlling for race/ethnicity, immigrant status, child poverty, child age, parents' age, and health insurance coverage

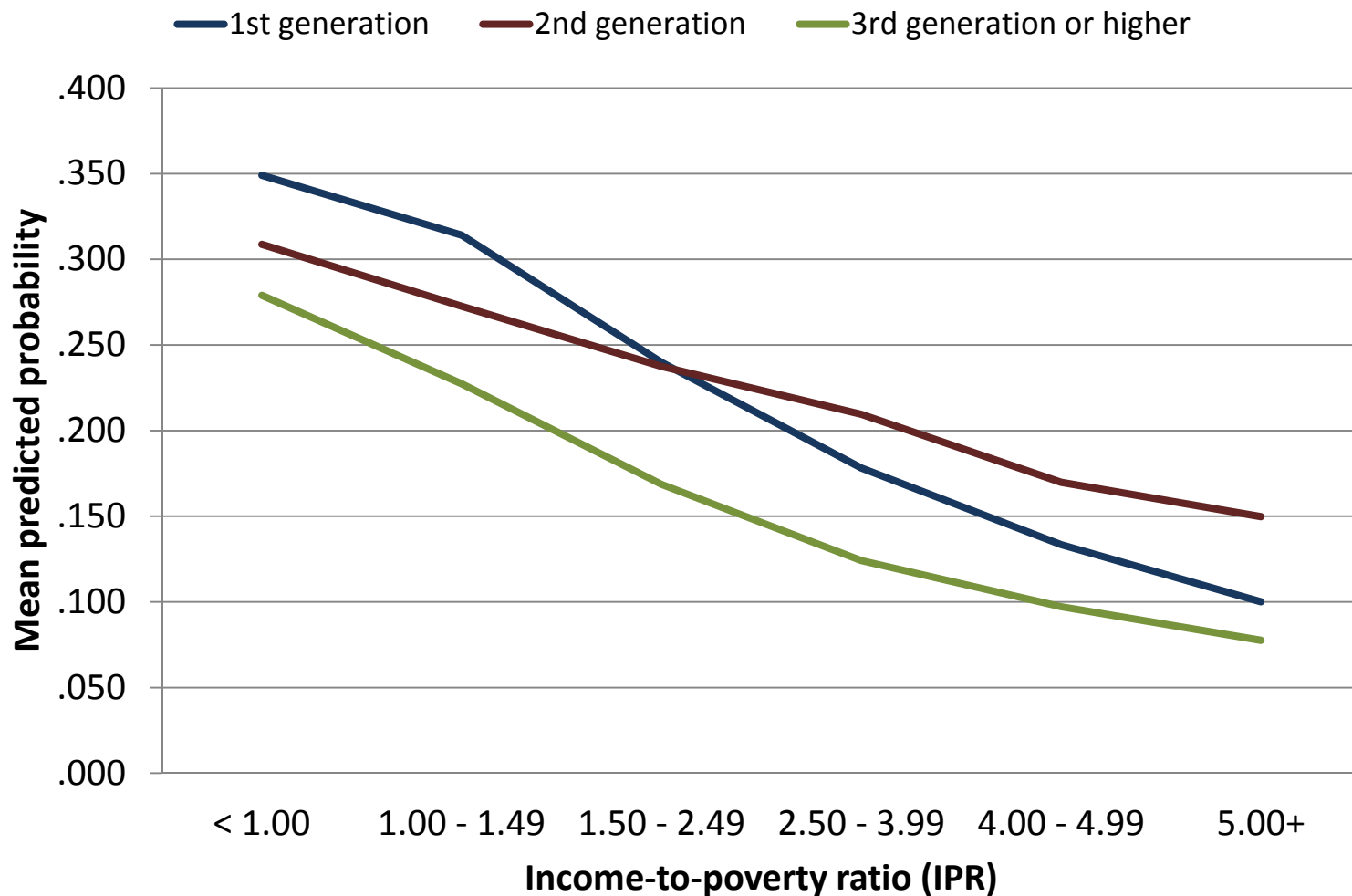


# Predicted Probabilities of Poor Child Health by Income-to-Poverty Ratio and Race/Ethnicity



Controlling for child age; household structure; parental education and age; metro/nonmetro residence; and health insurance coverage

# Predicted Probabilities of Poor Child Health by Income-to-Poverty Ratio and Immigrant Status



Controlling for child age; household structure; parental education and age; metro/nonmetro residence; and health insurance coverage

# Conclusions

- Mexican American, African American, and to a lesser extent, other Latino and Asian children experience poor health compared to non-Hispanic White children
- 1<sup>st</sup> generation children experience poor health than 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation children
- The effect of immigrant status on child health varies by race/ethnicity
  - Among Mexican American and African American children, 1<sup>st</sup> generation children suffer poor health than 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation children
  - Among non-Hispanic White, Other Latino, and Asian children, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation children exhibit poor health than 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation children

# Conclusions

- Increased child poverty is associated with poor child health
- The effect of child poverty on child poor health also varies by race/ethnicity
  - Poor African American, followed by Asian, non-Hispanic White, Mexican American, and other Latino children (in descending order of their relative odds) suffer poor health than non-poor non-Hispanic White children
  - Among non-poor children, African American and Mexican American children suffer poor health than other Latino, Asian, and non-Hispanic children

# Conclusions

- Higher child poverty (lower value of IPR) is associated with worse child health for all children
  - However, Asian, African American, and Mexican American poor children suffer poor health than non-Hispanic White and other Latino children
  - At the higher end of income spectrum (i.e., children in well-off families), Mexican American and African American, followed by other Latino and Asian children suffer poor health than non-Hispanic White and other Latino children
  - 1<sup>st</sup> generation poor children suffer worse child health than 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation children. However, at higher end of income spectrum, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation children suffer worse child health than 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation children

Controlling for child age, immigrant status, parental education and parental age, household structure, health insurance coverage, and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan residence

# Conclusions

- Health disadvantages of Midwestern children from racial/ethnic minority and immigrant families faced by poverty
  - Increased exposure to poverty worsens child health
  - Improving the economic well-being, i.e., tackling the issue of poverty, would improve child health and the overall well-being of tomorrow's adults

***GRACIAS !***