**Week 12 Discussion Assignment**

**Table 1: Depression among adults 20 years of age and older, by poverty level and age group**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Poverty Level | 20 – 44 years old | 45 – 64 years old | 65 years and older |
| Below 100% | 15.2% | 23.5% | 10.6% |
| 100-199% | 10.3% | 9.6% | 6.8% |

**Table 2: No health insurance coverage among adults aged 18 – 64 years old, by poverty level and race**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Poverty Level | Hispanic | White Only | Black or African American | Asian |
| Below 100% | 61.1% | 35.0% | 36.7% | 38.7% |
| 100-199% | 56.5% | 33.8% | 36.7% | 38.7% |

**Table 3: ADHD among children aged 5-17 years old, by poverty level and race**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Poverty Level | Hispanic | White Only | Black or African American | Asian |
| Below 100% | 5.8% | 18.2% | 16.5% | N/A |
| 100-199% | 4.9% | 14.9% | 10.3% | N/A |

*\*estimates for Asian race are unconsidered unreliable*

**Summary**

Not surprisingly table 1 shows that individuals below the poverty level have a higher incidence of depression, regardless of age group. This makes sense, given that financial troubles can make one’s life more difficult and thus lead to feelings of depression. Depression rates for those below poverty peak in the middle age group of 45-64 years old, before dropping significantly for the last age group of 65 years plus. Furthermore, we see that depression rates never get above ~10% for those above the poverty level. Obviously money is not the only driver of depression, but this certainly lends support to the notion that money plays a key role in one’s mental state.

Table 2 shows that there is minimal different in health insurance coverage between adults below the poverty line and those at 100-199% of the poverty line. This is a surprising statistic, as I would think there would be a massive difference between the two groups, since health insurance can be costly and thus difficult to afford for those under the poverty level. However, it seems there is not much of a difference, outside of a few percentage points for Hispanics and Whites. In fact, the health insurance coverage percentage is the exact same for African Americans and Asians below and above the poverty line. In comparing the different races, Whites, African Americans, and Asians all have roughly the same percentage of adults lacking health insurance coverage at between 35-40%. This number jumps significantly for Hispanics, as it is 61% for those under poverty and 56% for those above poverty.

Table 3 shows that Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder is more prevalent among those under the poverty level, regardless of race. Whites have the greatest percentage of children suffering from ADHD, at 18%, just above African Americans’ percentage of 16.5. Hispanics actually have the lowest incidence of ADHD, at only 5.8% for those below the poverty level and 4.9% for those above the poverty level. The data for the Asian race was considered unreliable so it was not reported. The reason for the decrease in ADHD prevalence when you move above the poverty line is not evident from the data, but it’s possible this is a result of the environment with which children are exposed during their developmental years. Perhaps families living in poverty expose children to more factors that can lead to ADHD development.