

# Effect of neighborhood ethnic density/composition on Korean and Filipino youth's depressive symptoms and academic performance: Testing the Heterogeneous Associations by Nativity, Ethnicity, and Gender

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## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

• **Ethnic enclave theory** argues that ethnic/racial minority immigrant groups tend to benefit from living in ethnically homogenous community (Wilson & Portes, 1980). While most of the empirical studies have focused on testing the theory based on economic achievement, few have examined 1) the role of neighborhood ethnic composition and/or density on youth mental health and academic performance, 2) especially with Asian immigrant youth population.

## Objectives

Accordingly, this study aims to examine...

- The associations between the neighborhood ethnic density/composition and youth outcomes (i.e., depressive symptoms and academic outcomes) with Filipino and Korean American youth
- Whether these associations vary by nativity status (i.e., foreign-born vs. U.S.-born), ethnic background, and gender.

## DATA AND METHOD

### 1) 2010 Census track

-To create an ethnic density/composition measure, 2010 Census track data was used

Ethnic enclave	% of Co-ethnic	% of White
E=0	0	0
E=1	1	0
E=2	0	1
E=3	1	1

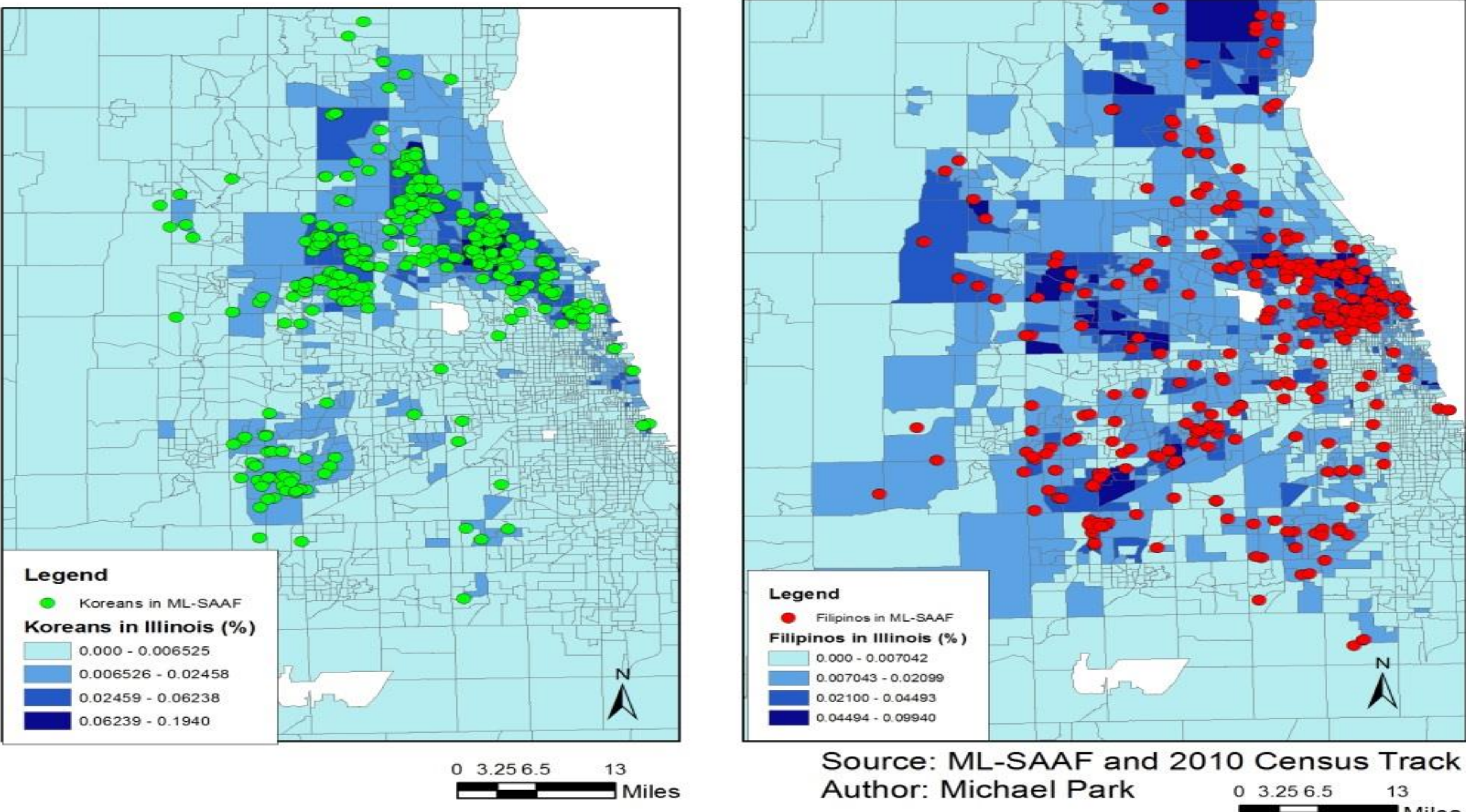
- 0: below IL average, 1: equal or above than IL average
- Korean and Filipino Americans in IL in 2010: 61500 (0.5%) and 139090 (4.7%), respectively
- White in IL in 2010: 77.2%

### 2) Midwest Longitudinal Study of Asian American Families (ML-SAAF) project

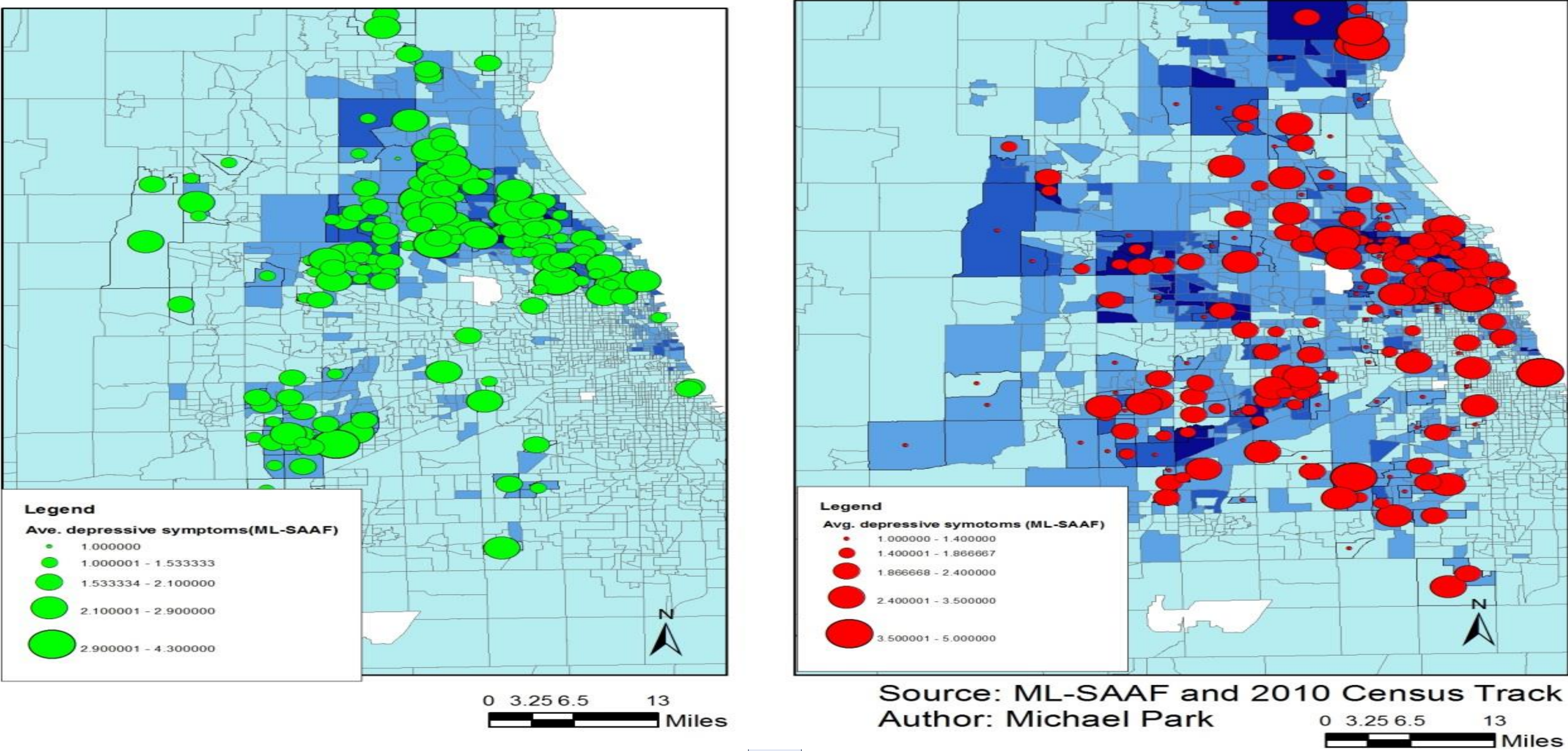
-Korean and Filipino youth's outcome and demographic measures were used from ML-SAAF data (PI: Yoonsun Choi) funded by NICHD Research Project Grant (R01 HD073200).

### 3) Combining 2010 Census track and ML-SAAF through ArcGis (i.e., Geocoding)

## Filipino/Korean youth in ML-SAAF and IL



## Level of depressive symptoms by location among ML-SAAF youth



To test statistically whether ethnic enclave is significantly associated with youth outcomes, multi-level analysis is used to test the following model:

Individual level ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n_i$ )  
Youth outcome<sub>ij</sub>  
=  $b_{0i} + b_{1i}female_{ij} + b_{2i}USborn_{ij} + b_{3i}income_{ij}$   
+  $b_{4i}antisocial\_beliefs_{ij} + b_{5i}peer\_antisocial\_beliefs_{ij}$   
+  $b_{6i}parent\_child\_conflict_{ij} + b_{7i}Age + \epsilon_{ij}$

Neighborhood level ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ )

$b_{0i} = \beta_0 + \beta_7enclave1 + \beta_8enclave2 + \beta_9enclave3 + v_{0i}$   
 $b_{1i} = \beta_1 + \beta_{10}enclave1 + \beta_{11}enclave2 + \beta_{12}enclave3$   
 $b_{2i} = \beta_2 + \beta_{13}enclave1 + \beta_{14}enclave2 + \beta_{15}enclave3$   
 $b_{3i} = \beta_3, b_{4i} = \beta_4, b_{5i} = \beta_5, b_{6i} = \beta_6, b_{7i} = \beta_7$   
 $\epsilon_{ij} \sim NID(0, \sigma^2)$  Level-1 residuals  
 $v_{0i} \sim NID(0, \sigma_v^2)$  Level-2 residuals

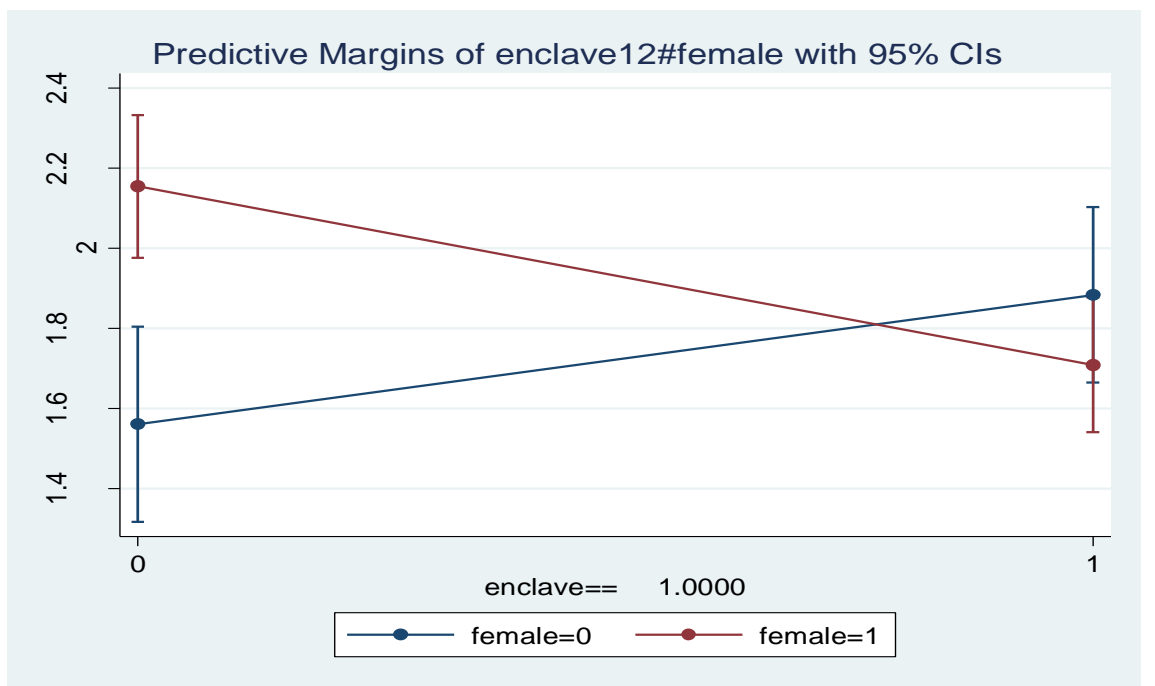
## RESULTS

### Co-Ethnic density as criteria for enclave (Subgroup analysis)

- **Main effect:** No significant effect of living in enclave were found with Depressive symptoms and GPA as outcomes for both Korean and Filipino youth.
- **Interaction effect** between enclave and nativity (foreign-born vs. U.S. born) was not found with any of the youth outcomes.
- i) **Filipino group:** However, the effect of enclave on depressive symptoms was significantly differed by **gender** background. Specifically, compared to reference female group (lower than avg. % of Filipino American and White), female groups with high density white population had lower level of depressive symptoms, while that positive effect did not hold for male youth group.
- ii) **Korean group:** living in more high density co-ethnic neighborhood, compared to high on both group, was significantly associated with reduced depressive symptoms particularly for female youth.

### Asian American density as criteria for enclave (full sample analysis)

- **Main effect:** No significant effect of living in enclave were found with depressive symptoms and GPA as outcomes.
- **Interaction effect** between enclave and i) nativity (foreign-born vs. U.S. born) and ii) ethnicity (Filipino vs. Korean) were not found with any of youth outcomes.
- However, the effect of enclave on depressive symptoms was significantly differed by **gender** background. Specifically, compared to reference female group (lower than avg. % of Asian American and White), all other female groups had lower level of depressive symptoms, while that positive effect did not hold for male youth group.



## Conclusion

- Although the current study does not directly support the ethnic enclave theory, ethnic density/composition do seem to matter selectively on youth outcomes (i.e., only with depressive symptoms) and that relationship depends on youth demographic characteristics (i.e., gender)
- Next step:** Future study needs to examine these relationships with more nationally representative data