

Title: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Housing Insecurity and Eviction Likelihood among Renters during the Pandemic in New York State and Beyond

Corresponding Author: *Samantha Friedman, Associate Professor of Sociology, University at Albany, SUNY*

"The authors present what may be a preliminary analysis of data regarding the association between eviction and race related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would suggest a series of revisions in the abstract to enhance the reporting of the authors' findings on this topic.

1. One important revision would be the inclusion of a limitations section. There are several limitations – some of which, like the small sample size, are mentioned by the authors, and others, like the perception of likelihood of eviction being used as a proxy measure of the renters' actual likelihood of eviction, which are not mentioned. The addition of a limitations section would help the reader to better assess the rigor of the study.
2. The results are reported as "preliminary" and updated analyses in future are discussed. Is this study ongoing? If this is an ongoing study or preliminary analysis then it would be important to characterize it as such earlier in the abstract, possibly in the introduction.
3. The sample size for the analysis is not reported in the methods section for any of the groups, despite the authors' note that the sample size is small. This information is necessary for the reader.
4. Given the scope of the symposium, additional discussion of what these results say about the impact of COVID-19 would be an important addition to the discussion section of the abstract.
5. Reporting of the variables in the methods section includes appropriate detail, with the exception of the ordinal measure of income, which could be described in greater detail.
6. The results are reported as either the reduced or full model. A definition of each model would be important in the methods section – the note in the table alone may not be sufficient to make the distinction clear to the reader.
7. The results section has a more narrative structure, and in the first paragraph, numerical results are not included in text. Additional emphasis on the numerical results in this section would help to differentiate it from the more narrative discussion section. Furthermore, quantitative results should be reported along with the p-value so that the reader can clearly differentiate statistically significant results.
8. In the discussion section, there is some phrasing that is confusing. Results are described as significant that do not appear to be significant in the tables – specifically the result that Hispanics are less likely than Whites to report being very likely to be evicted. This may be a misunderstanding on my part, but clearer phrasing might be beneficial so that the findings can be more easily understood.
9. Later in the same paragraph in the discussion, the authors hypothesize that this result might be related to Hispanic renters having Hispanic landlords. Without additional citations or a clearer link to the

citations in the previous sentence, this connection is unclear and seems out of place in the discussion. Furthermore, without reference to ingroup behavior or some other justification, it might appear to be offensive or stereotyping to some readers.

10. The tables (especially Table 2) are formatted in a way that is difficult to read, including some text being cut off.

11. Subjective language, such as using “unfortunately” to describe data limitations, seems out of place in this style of writing.

12. At the very end of page 4 on the last line, the word “likely” seems to be missing after “less” before the page change.”

"This is such an important topic. Thank you for taking the time to highlight these issues.

“Research should not perpetuate disparities, inequalities, and stereotypes about populations of color. Researchers who analyze data, evaluate programs, measure outcomes, and make recommendations for program and systems improvement, therefore, have a responsibility to embed a racial and ethnic equity perspective in their work. Researchers must think critically about how they collect, analyze, and present data to avoid masking disproportionalities or disparities that different racial and ethnic groups experience. They must pay disciplined attention to race and ethnicity while analyzing problems, looking for solutions, and defining success.”

In regards to this paper, the author might consider the following:

- Race feels oversimplified here. Researchers who use secondary data analysis need to examine and interrogate the ways in which race and ethnicity are treated as variables. When you are referencing Black people throughout this article, who are you referring to? What are their stories? Are these Black people who were primarily born in America and are descended from enslaved Africans who survived the trans-Atlantic slave trade? When referring to Hispanics are you referring to Mexican or Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Salvadorans, etc? This might not be known, but mentioning the diaspora allows the readers to see and humanize the people you are writing about. Acknowledge the limitations of generalizability of sample when speaking of racial groups as homogeneous populations/categorizations, especially when you recode samples to create monologic groups for statistical purposes.
- What are the underlying factors that contribute to the existence and maintenance of the disparities?
- How have you engaged directly with communities of color, and how will their stories be shared?
- How will you situate the housing insecurity and eviction likelihood within the current historical context? What are the historical and cultural antecedents of these communities? What is the history of racial dynamics in these communities?"