

Health insurance coverage among Middle Eastern and North African American children in the United States: Results from American Community Survey and National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

- Hispanic and Black children are more likely to be uninsured than White children in the US
- Little is known about health insurance coverage among Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) children
- MENA children are classified as White by the Office of Management and Budget

Introduction

- “White” represents heterogeneous group defined as:
 - “Any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa”
- Research shows the health and lived experiences of individuals from the Middle East and North Africa differs from White individuals of Anglo/European ancestry

Objectives

1. To calculate and compare estimates foreign-born MENA children without health insurance compared US- and foreign-born White children
2. To compare insurance estimates among US- and foreign-born MENA children

Results for only uninsured children are reported, public and private health insurance estimates also calculated

Methods

2000-2018 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
311,961 children 305,454 US-born White 4,738 Foreign-born White 0 US-born MENA (<i>not applicable</i>) 1,769 Foreign-born MENA	1,892,255 children 1,848,056 US-born White 12,614 Foreign-born White 25,557 US-born MENA 6,028 Foreign-born MENA
MENA variable created using: Race (White) Ethnicity (Non-Hispanic) Region of birth (Middle East and Africa)	MENA variable created using: Race (White) Ethnicity (Non-Hispanic) Country of birth Ancestry (Middle East, North Africa, Trans-national)

Bivariate and logistic regression analysis conducted

Table 1. Selected characteristics of non-Hispanic White and MENA children

	NHIS			ACS			
	US-born White <i>Weighted</i> %	Foreign- born White <i>Weighted</i> %	Foreign- born MENA <i>Weighted</i> %	US-born White <i>Weighted</i> %	Foreign- born White <i>Weighted</i> %	US-born MENA <i>Weighted</i> %	Foreign- born MENA <i>Weighted</i> %
Age (<i>mean</i>)	8.7	9.4	9.1	8.7	10.8	8.0	10.2
Female sex	48.7	50	49.8	48.7	48.0	49.1	47.1
<200% income federal poverty level	36.1	33.9	44.7	27.1	31.5	38.9	67.6

Table 2. Logistic regression results comparing foreign-born White and foreign-born MENA to US-born non-Hispanic White children

	NHIS	ACS
	Adjusted Model ^a	Adjusted Model ^a
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
No Insurance		
US-born White	1.00	1.00
Foreign-born White	1.56 (1.30, 1.86)	2.61 (2.40, 2.84)
US-born MENA	NA	1.00 (0.91, 1.10)
Foreign-born MENA	1.50 (1.10, 2.05)	2.11 (1.88, 2.37)

^aAdjusted for age, sex, income based on federal poverty level
All groups non-Hispanic or Latino

Table 3. Logistic regression results comparing foreign-born MENA to US-born MENA children

	ACS
	Adjusted Model ^a
	OR (95% CI)
No Insurance	
US-born MENA	1.00
Foreign-born MENA	2.11 (1.83, 2.45)

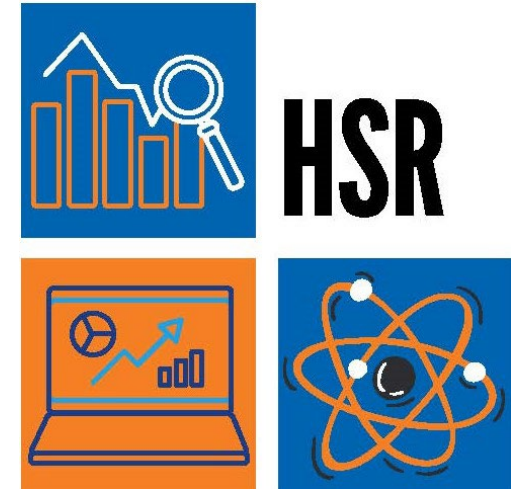
^aAdjusted for age, sex, income based on federal poverty level
All groups non-Hispanic or Latino

Discussion

- Our study provide baseline estimates for uninsured MENA children using data from two nationally representative data sources
- Results highlight the need for creating a separate racial/ethnic category for federal reporting standards for baseline health estimates among US- and foreign-born MENA children

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