RACIAL/ETHNIC TRENDS IN PUBLIC OPINIONS TOWARD ALCOHOL-RELATED POLICIES IN THE US, 1995-2015

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As required by the Alcohol Policy 18 Conference, I/we have signed a disclosure statement and note the following conflict(s) of interest:

None
BACKGROUND
Despite lower alcohol consumption, racial/ethnic minorities experience higher alcohol-related problems and alcohol-related mortality.

Among drinkers, Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to experience alcohol dependence symptoms and negative drinking consequences compared to Whites.
Alcohol-related policies are effective strategies for reducing excessive drinking and alcohol-related problems.

Public opinion can be essential for developing, passing, and implementing effective alcohol policies.

Yet how racial/ethnic minorities view policies is important, in particular, for reducing alcohol-related disparities.
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Upstream/downstream Policy Model

**UPSTREAM:** Everyone in all communities should have these conditions

- Modifying drinking context
- Pricing & taxation measures
- Regulating physical availability of alcohol

**DOWNSTREAM:** Actions to change individual behaviors or conditions to mitigate alcohol-related problems

- Drinking & Driving countermeasures
- Treatment & early intervention services
- Education & persuasion strategies

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do racial/ethnic groups differ in their support for alcohol policies? And has their support changed over time?
2. Are these racial/ethnic differences due to drinking status?
3. Do racial/ethnic differences persist even after accounting for environmental conditions?
METHODS
DATA:

National Alcohol Survey, 1995-2015
Nationally-representative survey of U.S. adults ages 18+

1995: In-person
n=4,925
RR=77%
CR=58%

2000: Phone
n=7,612
CR=58%

2005: Phone
n=6,919
CR=56%

2010: Phone
n=7,969
CR=52%

2015: Phone
n=7,071
CR=44%
POLICY MEASURES

NAS Alcohol Policy Questions
The last few questions ask about your ideas or opinions.

1. Should taxes on alcoholic beverages be increased?
2. Should alcoholic beverages be available in corner or convenience stores?
3. Should alcohol treatment programs be covered in everyone’s health care insurance?
4. Should alcohol education and prevention programs be increased?
Bivariate regressions:
- Racial/ethnic differences
- Time trends

Multivariate logistic regressions to examine racial/ethnic differences in policy support accounting for:
- Model 1: Time
- Model 2: + Drinking status and demographics
- Model 3: + Environmental conditions

Adjusted for survey design and accounted for sample weights using Stata
RESULTS
RESULTS

NAS Survey Results

Among U.S. Adults ages 18+ Surveyed

Opinion

- 29% support increase in alcohol taxes
- 54% support a ban on corner store alcohol sales
- 82% support health insurance coverage for alcohol treatment
- 70% support increase in alcohol education/prevention
POLICY TRENDS OVER TIME

Percentage of Adults who Support Policy

- Increase taxes on alcoholic beverages
- Ban alcohol sales in corner/convenience stores
- Alcohol treatment coverage under health insurance
- Increase alcohol education and prevention programs

1995: 83%, 66%, 43%
2000: 81%, 63%, 37%
2005: 79%, 58%, 35%
2010: 80%, 77%, 38%
2015: 82%, 70%, 29%
INCREASE ALCOHOL TAXES

Bivariate Results

Support for Increased Alcohol Taxes, 1995-2015

- Whites: 34%
- Blacks: 36%
- USB Hispanics*: 39%
- FB Hispanics*: 57%
- API: 41%
- AI/AN: 40%

Notes: * Statistically different compared to Whites, p<0.05; n=24,048
## Multivariate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compared to Whites</th>
<th>Model 1 Time</th>
<th>Model 2 Drinker Status</th>
<th>Model 3 Environ. Conditions</th>
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<td>Hispanics</td>
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BAN CORNER STORE ALCOHOL SALES

Bivariate Results

Ban Corner Store Alcohol Sales, 1995-2005, 2015

Notes: * Statistically different compared to Whites, p<0.05; n=19,275
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INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TREATMENT

Bivariate Results

Health Insurance Coverage for Alcohol Treatment, 1995-2015

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<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacks*</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>USB Hispanics*</td>
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<td>FB Hispanics*</td>
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<td>API</td>
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<td>AI/AN</td>
<td>84%</td>
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Notes: *Statistically different compared to Whites, p<0.05; n=24,404
# INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TREATMENT

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Bivariate Results

Increase Alcohol Education and Prevention Programs, 1995-2010

Notes: *Statistically different compared to Whites, p<0.05; n=19,419
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SUMMARY
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- Downstream policies more popular
- Policy support has declined since 1995 except for insurance coverage for treatment
Overall, racial/ethnic minorities expressed higher support for all alcohol control policies compared to Whites.

- However, drinking status (whether abstainer or heavy drinker) and environmental conditions mattered.

Blacks favored education/prevention and treatment, and reduced availability.

US-born Hispanics attitudes more similar to Whites than their foreign-born counterparts on taxes and availability.

Foreign-born Hispanics have highest support for all policies except insurance coverage for treatment.

Asian Pacific Islanders and American Indians/Alaskan Natives showed higher support but not significantly different from Whites.
NEXT STEPS

• Investigate which alcohol-related policies are most effective for reducing racial/ethnic disparities in alcohol-related problems

• Translate research findings into strategies with racial/ethnic communities to develop, pass, and implement alcohol-related policies
Thank you!

Questions:
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Policy Component