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# Effects of Perceived Racism and Socioeconomic Status on Family Health

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## Introduction

Family health is strongly associated with lifelong health and development<sup>1</sup> and one's experiences in childhood may have an impact on their family health in adulthood<sup>2</sup>. Of the research conducted on family health in the United States, little information can be found that directly discusses health disparities and childhood socioeconomic status as predictors of family health. Recent research shows that current household income is positively associated with family health in adulthood, meaning that SES affects access to care and health practices<sup>3</sup>.

## Methods

- Data were collected via an MTurk Amazon survey panel of 508 couple-dyads representative of the US adult population.

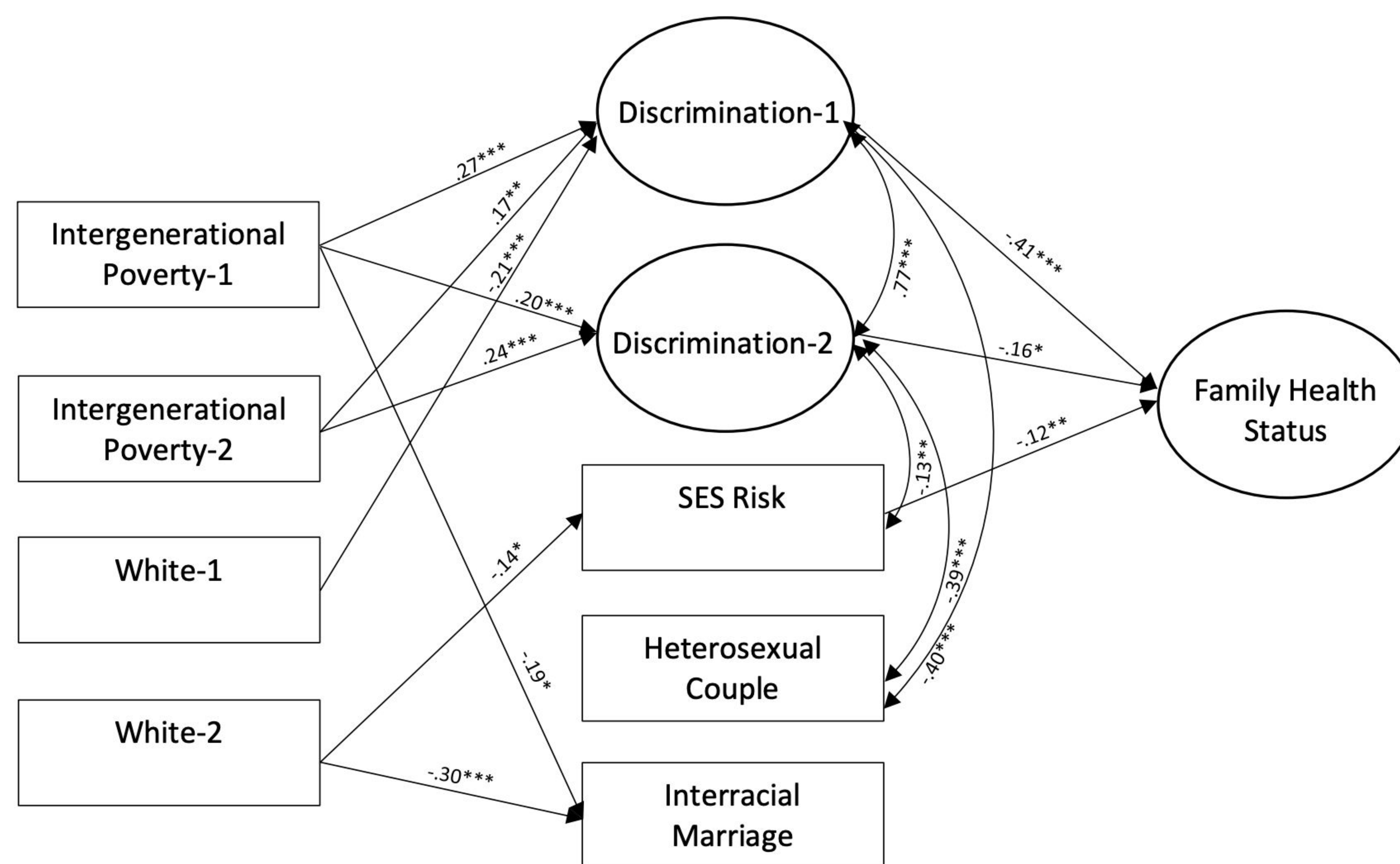
## Measures

- Family Health
- Child and Adult Socioeconomic Status
- Perceived Racism
- Couple Sexuality
- Interracial Marriage

## Data Analysis

- Data were analyzed using structural equation modeling using Stata 16
- Controls were not used in data analysis

## The Relationship Between Race, Poverty, Type of Couple, Received Racism, and Family Health Status



\*p>.05, \*\*p>.01, \*\*\*p>.001  
Model Fit: RMSEA=.049; CFI=.969  
Significant paths only shown

## Results

- Variables are labelled 1 or 2, where partner 1 is most often women and partner 2 is most often men found in heterosexual couples
- Discrimination mediates childhood poverty and family health for both partners
- Childhood poverty through partner 1's feelings of discrimination determines family health
- Childhood poverty can predict family health status, but is not mediated by SES risk
- Men's and women's feelings of discrimination negatively impact family health
- Heterosexual couples or interracial marriages have no effect on family health

## Conclusion

- Women's feelings of racial discrimination or interpretation of their partner's experiences of discrimination impacts family health
- Effects of perceived racism influence women and men differently
- Poverty has an effect on family health, especially women's status of poverty
- The combination of women's experiences of poverty and discrimination is the strongest pathway in the model

## Moving Forward

- Follow study with longitudinal data
- Why do experiences of discrimination affect women more than men?
- How does this affect the family's access to resources?

## References

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