

**Title:** Racial disparities over age affect cognitive difficulties

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**Background/ Purpose:** Despite societal changes, racial health disparities persist. These disparities extend beyond physical health to cognitive wellbeing. We examined the relation among age, race, and cognitive difficulties/ decline in adults, mean age 65 years old.

**Methods:** Responses from 61688 adults who completed the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data were analyzed. A moderated regression analysis and a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) were conducted.

**Results:** The moderated regression analysis was significant:  $F(3, 61684) = 33.39, p < .001$ . The ANOVA test was significant,  $(F(5, 63541) = 40.48, p < .001)$ . Post hoc tests revealed WNH & BNH reported fewer cognitive difficulties/decline compared to AAPI, AI/AN/NH, and Hispanic adults.

**Discussion:** Results from this study have shown that racial disparities contribute to cognitive difficulties/ decline. Reducing racial disparities in cognition may require additional attention to factors that mediate those relations, such as education, access to health care, and income.