



Huli no ke ea: Self Determination as a Determinant of Health

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Learning objectives

- By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:
 - 1. Have a better appreciation of health disparities for Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i
 - 2. Have a better appreciation of the role of cultural trauma in health
 - 3. Have a better understand of the articulation between self-determination and health.

Presenter Disclosures

Kawika M K I Liu, MD, PhD, JD

- (1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Inequities

- Types of disparity
 - Health status
 - Access to care
 - Quality of care

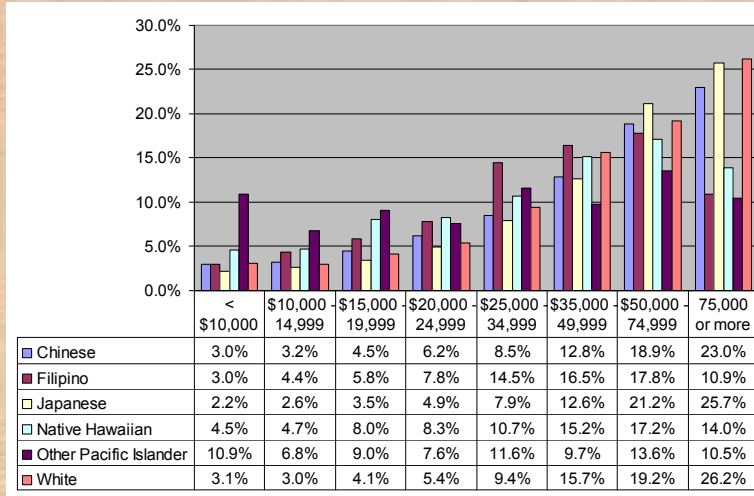
Gamble 2006

Indigenous health inequities

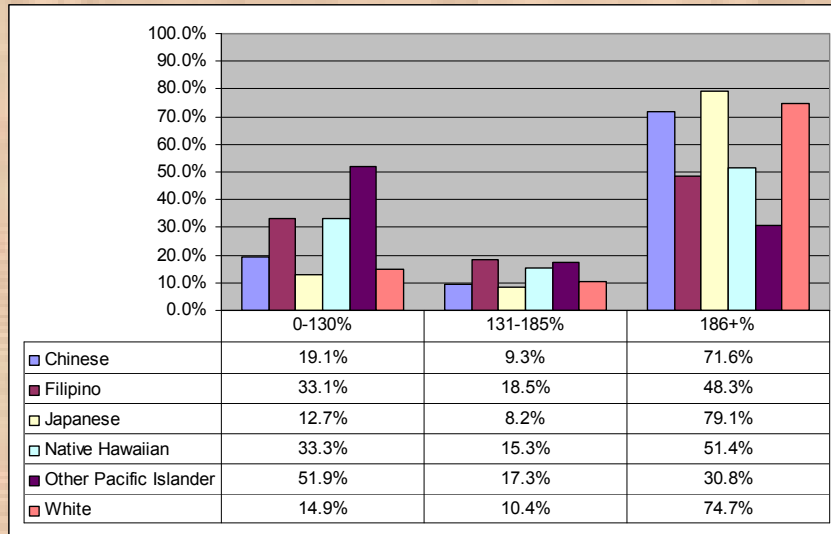
- Throughout the world, indigenous peoples face higher morbidity and mortality burdens than majority groups
- These differences are not fully explained by traditional biomedical model of disease
 - In Aotearoa, 43% of the disparity between Māori and Pakeha explained through
 - 10% from higher smoking among Māori
 - 33% from identifiable socioeconomic factors
 - However, 57% - unexplained difference
 - Racism (colonialism) contributes to socioeconomic deprivation and together → health disparities

Gamble 2006; Blakely 2006; Harris 2006; Bhopal 2006

Incomes in Hawai'i

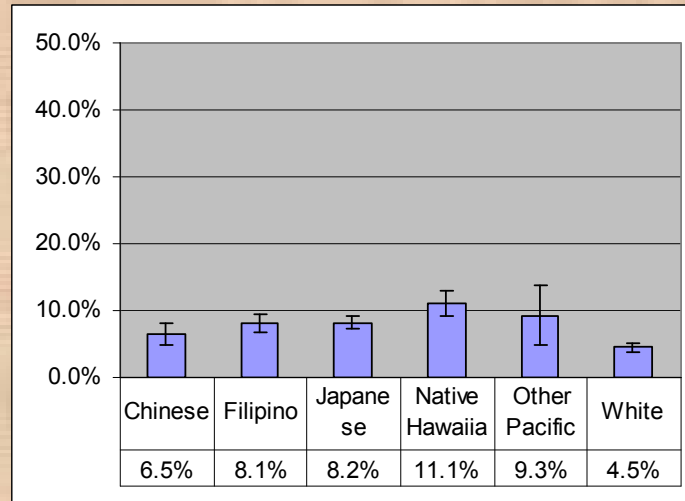


Poverty in Hawai'i

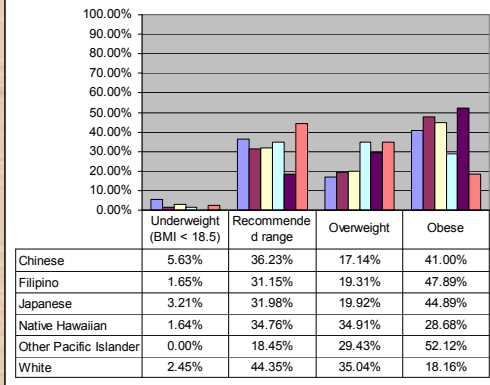
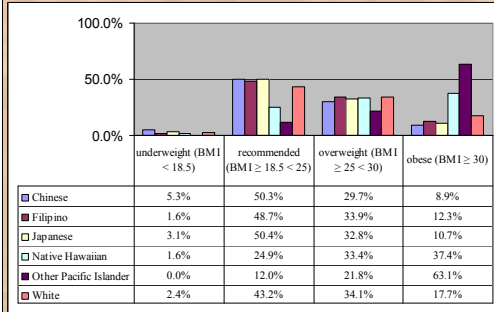


Poverty in US not measured similarly to other countries, i.e. in rest of the world, poverty defined as ≤ 50 of average family income, but now US definition $\sim 20\%$ of average family income, and should be disposable income, rather than simply gross or even AGI

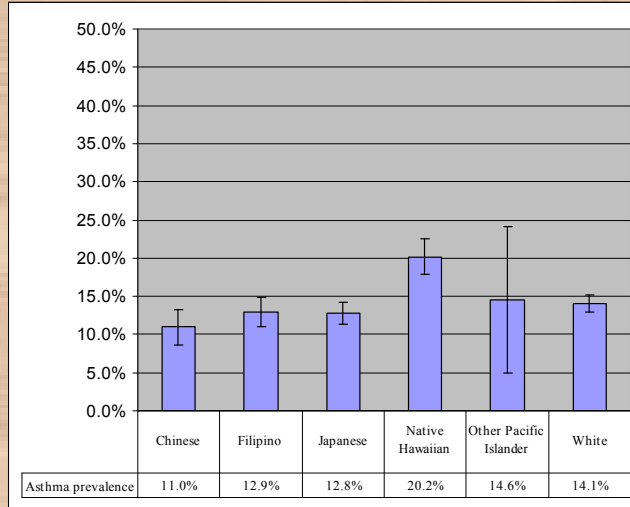
Type 2 diabetes in Hawai'i



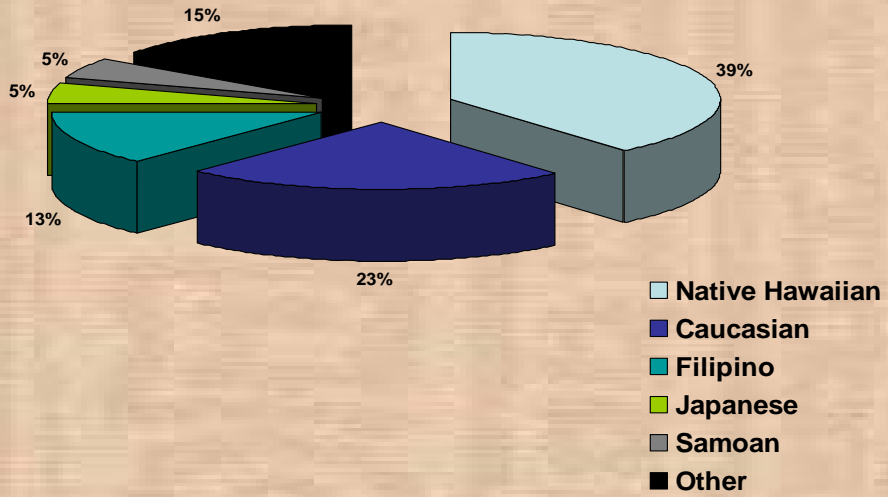
Obesity in Hawai'i



Asthma in Hawai'i



Incarceration in Hawai'i



Department of Public Safety 2007



Multigenerational trauma



- Loss of self-esteem → fatalism and deterministic worldview
- Re/membering historical trauma → reconstructing identity and connections with own and dominant culture
 - Reconstructing anxiety buffer
 - Meaning and standards of behavior → renewal of self-esteem

Wesley-Esquimaux 2007; Salzman 2001

Missing variables: multigenerational trauma, colonization and self determination

- Cultural values and practices in particular historical, political and economic context
 - Culture constructs meaning in the world
 - Self esteem can only result from action in meaningful world
- Are these mediators of chronic stress?
 - Chronic stress has been associated with higher morbidity and mortality, but controversial
 - What is pathophysiology?
 - Does stress mediate accessing healthcare system, adherence?

Frank 2000; Salzman 2001; Wesley-Esquimaux 2007; Kruk 2007; de Jong 2008

Missing variables 2

- Problematic social behaviors are often learned
 - Alcohol consumption among American Indians
 - Prior to contact – mind altered states were undertaken within cultural context
 - Associated with improved well-being
 - Post contact
 - Weakening anxiety buffer → increased likelihood of anxiety related behaviors
 - Relative lack of cultural context for drinking behaviors
 - Development of violence, loss of control
 - Contribution of chronic stress to substance abuse

Frank 2000; Salzman
2001; Cleck 2008

Ventral tegmental area; nucleus accumbens; prefrontal cortex;

Multigenerational trauma

- Multigenerational/cultural trauma
 - Historical consciousness: individual and group awareness of the past
 - Events of the past have profound effect on the present
 - Tense political context
 - Cultural discontinuity and cultural cohort
 - Intact culture provides buffer against anxiety
 - Narrative of loss in past → narrative of grief in present
 - Direct traumatic experiences + present interpretations → dis-ease
 - Loss of cultural cohesion
 - Loss of social self + assimilation → substance abuse, family disintegration + suicide
 - Passive resistance to hegemony

Jervis 2006; Gone 2007; Salzman 2001; Wesley-Esquimaux 2007

Racism

- Part of system of uneven distribution of power
 - Privilege/oppression
 - Part of racialization
 - Strong relationship between racism and poor mental health

Paradies 2007

What is self-determination, and could it account for some of the disparities?

- Self determination is a fundamental right of all peoples
 - Includes the right to realization of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
 - Right to traditional medicines and to maintain traditional health practices

UN Declaration of Rights of
Indigenous Peoples

2008 – 60th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1994- US ratified Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, required to submit periodic reports.

Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

Brief history of Native Hawaiian self-determination

- Kānaka Maoli in Hawai'i since time immemorial
- Kamehameha I established Kingdom in 1810
- International community recognized Kingdom as independent state in 1843



Hawaii had treaties with: Austria, Belgium, Bremen (presently Germany), Denmark, France, Germany, Hamburg (presently Germany), Italy, Hong Kong (former colony of England), Japan, Netherlands, New South Wales (former colony of England), Portugal, Russia, Samoa, the Swiss Confederation, Sweden, Norway, Tahiti (colony of France), United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Loss of exercise of self-determination

- Colonization itself cannot be separated from ill-health
 - History not only in the past
 - stigmatization, marginalization, loss of cultural identity, and a health status that falls below that of plurality



van Holst Pellekan 2005; Moffitt 2004



Mrs. Kahuna Kahua Hilo, Hilo	47 57 17	Wahine, aa Kauai Apr 19 1898	4 5 6 7 8
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HOPOI KEE HOHULINA.

To His Excellency WILLIAM McKinLEY, President,
at his late Residence, a American Village.

PETITION AGAINST ANNEXATION.

To His Excellency WILLIAM McKinLEY, President,
and the Senate, of the United States of America.

Whereas, there has been submitted to the Senate of the United States of America a Treaty for the Annexation of the Territory of Hawaii to the said United States of America, for consideration of its regular session on December 16, 1897.

We, the undersigned, native Hawaiians, who are and were of the Kingdom of Hawaii, the Kingdom of Hawaii, who are members of the Hawaiian League, and other persons, who are respectively of the said Territory, hereby petition the said United States of America to not ratify or accept the said Treaty.

Witness our hands and seals at Hilo, Hawaii, this 17th day of April, 1898.

Ms. Betta Abbott
Mrs. Kauhala Campbell

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Impact of lack of self determination

- In their own homeland, Native Hawaiians have significant health and other disparities with many other groups
 - Disparities continue despite numerous US and State initiatives

UN CERD 14 Sept 2006 – ICCRP concern over plenary power of US Congress (extinguish tribal property rights w/o due process or compensation)

committee demanded that the United States give Native Americans "greater influence in decision-making affecting their natural environment and their means of subsistence as well as their own culture."

report also expressed concern over "the concept of permanent trusteeship over the Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their land."

UN Commission on Elimination of Racial Discrimination 7 March 2008 – US needs to end racially discriminatory policies in areas of healthcare, housing education, and criminal justice

Rejected US claim that policies which are facially neutral but discriminatory in practice are not violations of treaty obligations

U.S. to provide information about what it has done to promote the culture and traditions of American Indian, Alaska Native and indigenous Hawaiian peoples. It also urged the U.S. to apply the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

strong concerns regarding environmental racism and the environmental degradation of indigenous areas of spiritual and cultural significance, without regard to whether they are on "recognised" reservation lands.

US to submit report on indigenous status within one year

How could the loss of self-determination lead to health disparities?

- Aggregate effects of the social determinants of health are far greater than individual choice and genetics
 - Origin in work of WEB DuBois in 1906
- What are the social determinants of health, and how do they produce health or dis/ease?
 - “Once medicine is established as anthropology, and once the interests of the privileged no longer determine the course of public events, the physiologist and the practitioner will be counted among the elder statesmen who support the social structure. Medicine is a social science in its very bone and marrow.”

Gamble 2006; Virchow
1958

DuBois WEB. *The Health and Physique of the Negro American*: “With improved sanitary

conditions, improved education, and better economic opportunities,” he declared, “the mortality of the race may and probably will steadily decrease until it becomes normal”

“Of all forms

of discrimination and inequalities, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman,” Dr. King

Self determination

- Current political economy is paradigm of high stress/low control on a group level
- Multiple dimensions to self-determination
 - External
 - self rule
 - Internal
 - Economic/natural resources
 - Cultural
 - Social
 - Human security

Theorell 1996

Social, environmental, cultural, economic outcomes are linked

Governments have an obligation to create environment suitable for satisfaction of obligations to effectuate human rights

What is health

- Western/biomedical model: individual lack of disease and normality
 - Individual, ahistorical, apolitical
 - Healthy person is good American
- Hawaiian model – intimately linked to relations between Hawai'i and the West
 - Health is closeness to pre-contact state
 - Access to and resources to practice traditional culture
 - Recovery and re/production of identity, self-esteem, efficacy

McMullin 2004

Western health is body subject to technologies of control

Eating is reproduction of culture – kinolau, also in cultivation/gathering of foodstuffs

Health body, healthy land → healthy 'ohana, community → healthy nation

Food becomes center for social relationships and living culture

Conclusion

- Indigenous health is multifactorial
 - Native Hawaiians face large disparities in their homeland
- Measuring self determination, trauma and colonialism may provide more epidemiological power in explaining health disparities
 - Also improving health equity in Hawai'i and other locations
 - Conducting indigenous-specific health assessment actualizes self-determination
- Self determination may begin with recognition and reconciliation

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