

**Prevalence of Youth Violence
in the U.S., 1999-2007:
*Ethnic Comparisons and
Disaggregating
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders***

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Presenter Disclosures

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Youth Violence – What We Know

- The problem
 - Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth 10-14 years of age, and 2nd leading cause of death for youth 15-19 years of age
 - More than 14 million juvenile arrests annually
 - More than 600,000 for violent crimes
- The risks
 - Prior history/exposure to violence, substance use, poor social relationships, poor academic performance, poverty in the community
- The effects
 - Physical harm, social-emotional well-being, financial costs
 - Lost earnings, programming/interventions, pain and suffering, reduced quality of life

Youth Violence – What We Need

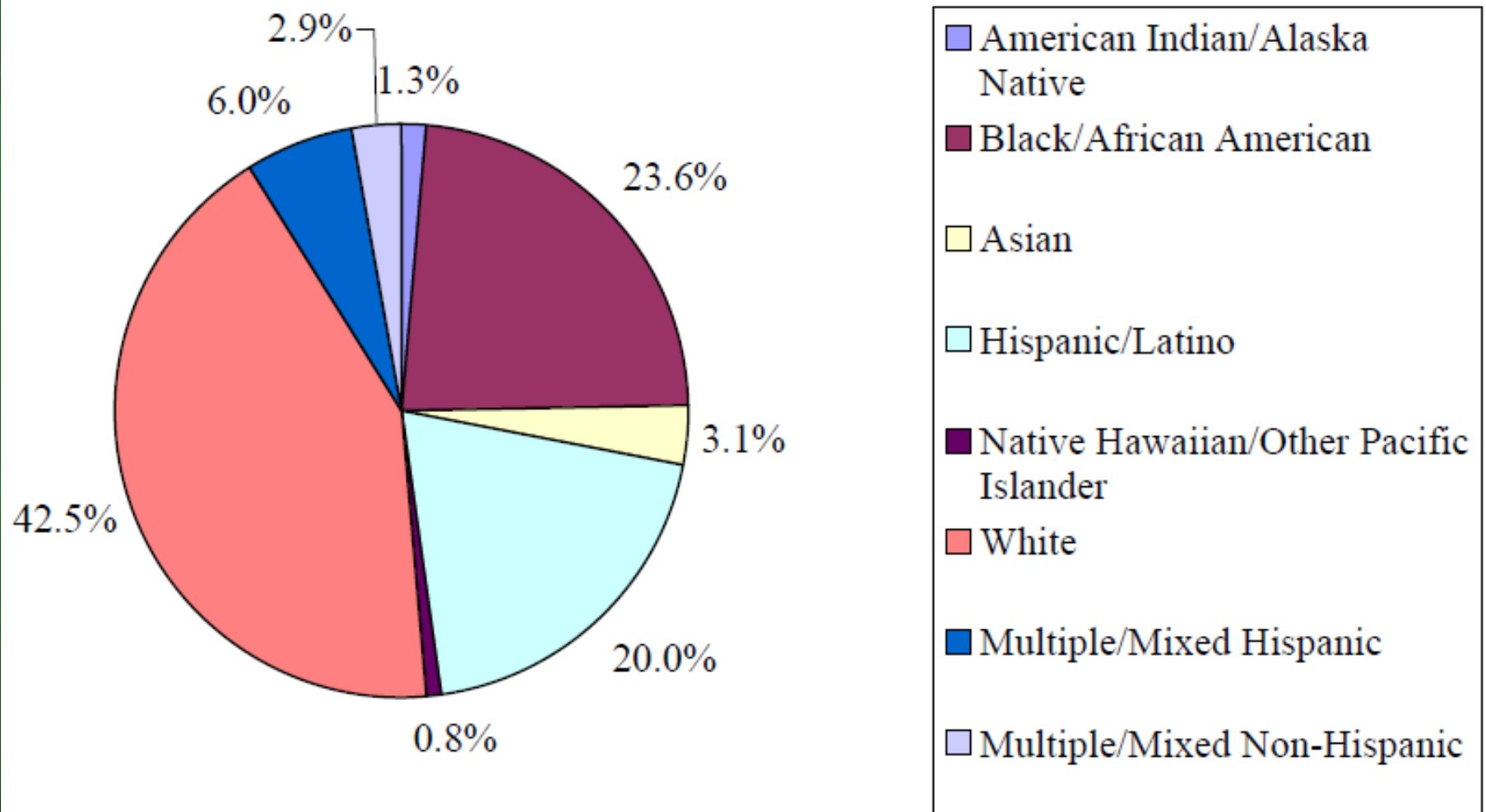
- Disaggregation by ethnicity
 - Health disparity – African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Hispanics versus European Americans and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPIs)
 - Myth of the “model minority”
 - Noteworthy differences among AAPI adolescents
- Prevalence across time
 - Disproportionate rates of population growth as a function of ethnicity

Purposes of the Study

- 1) Determine the factor structure of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) youth violence items that may provide more parsimonious constructs
- 2) Ascertain whether there are ethnic differences when disaggregating Asian American from Pacific Islander adolescents, as well as to examine gender differences
- 3) Determine whether there are significant interaction effects regarding ethnicity, gender, and time

Methods – Data Utilized

- YRBSS data from 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007
 - Total 72,122 participants across 5 years



Methods – Factor Analysis

During the past 30 days, on how many days did you...

- 1) Carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club?
- 2) Carry a gun?
- 3) Carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?
- 4) Not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?

Factor 1
**“Carry
Weapon”**

Cronbach
 $\alpha = .72$

During the past 12 months how many times...

- 5) Someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?
- 6) Someone stole or deliberately damaged your property such as your car, clothing, or books on school property?
- 7) Physical fight?
- 8) Physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?
- 9) Physical fight on school property?

Factor 2
**“Felt
Unsafe”**

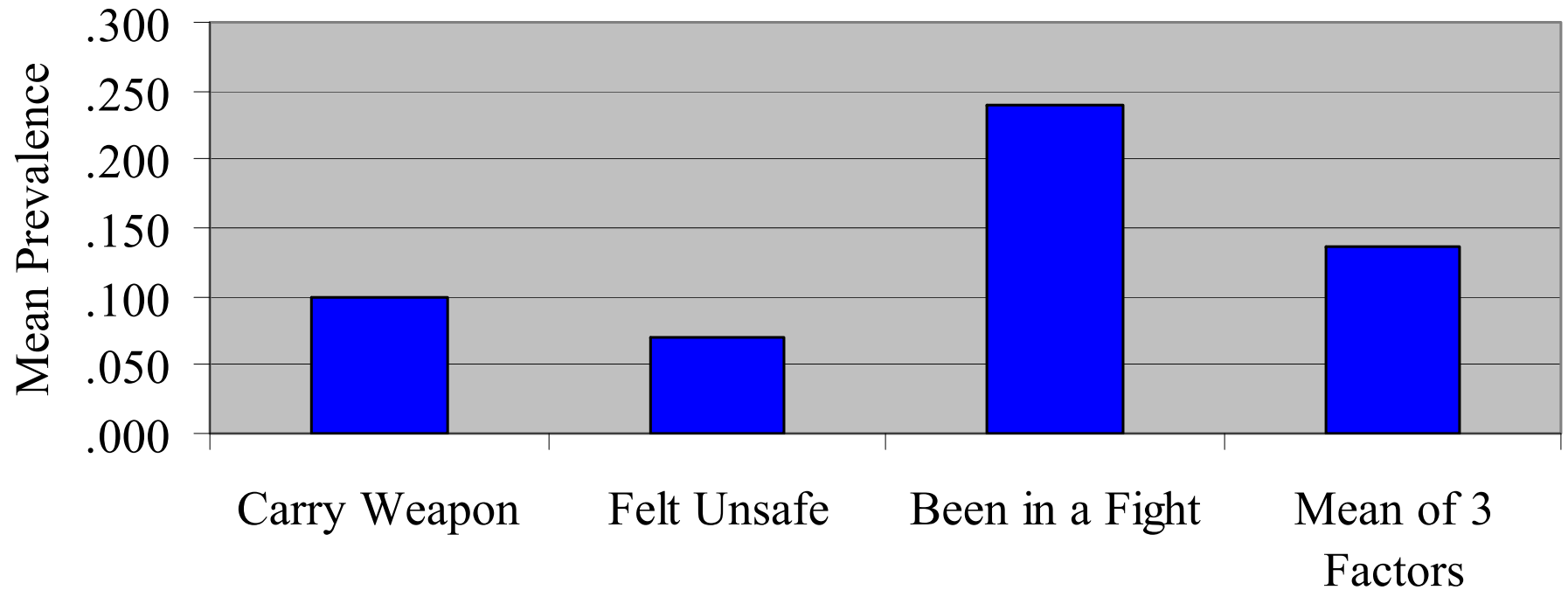
Cronbach
 $\alpha = .41$

Factor 3
**“Been in a
Fight”**

Cronbach
 $\alpha = .67$

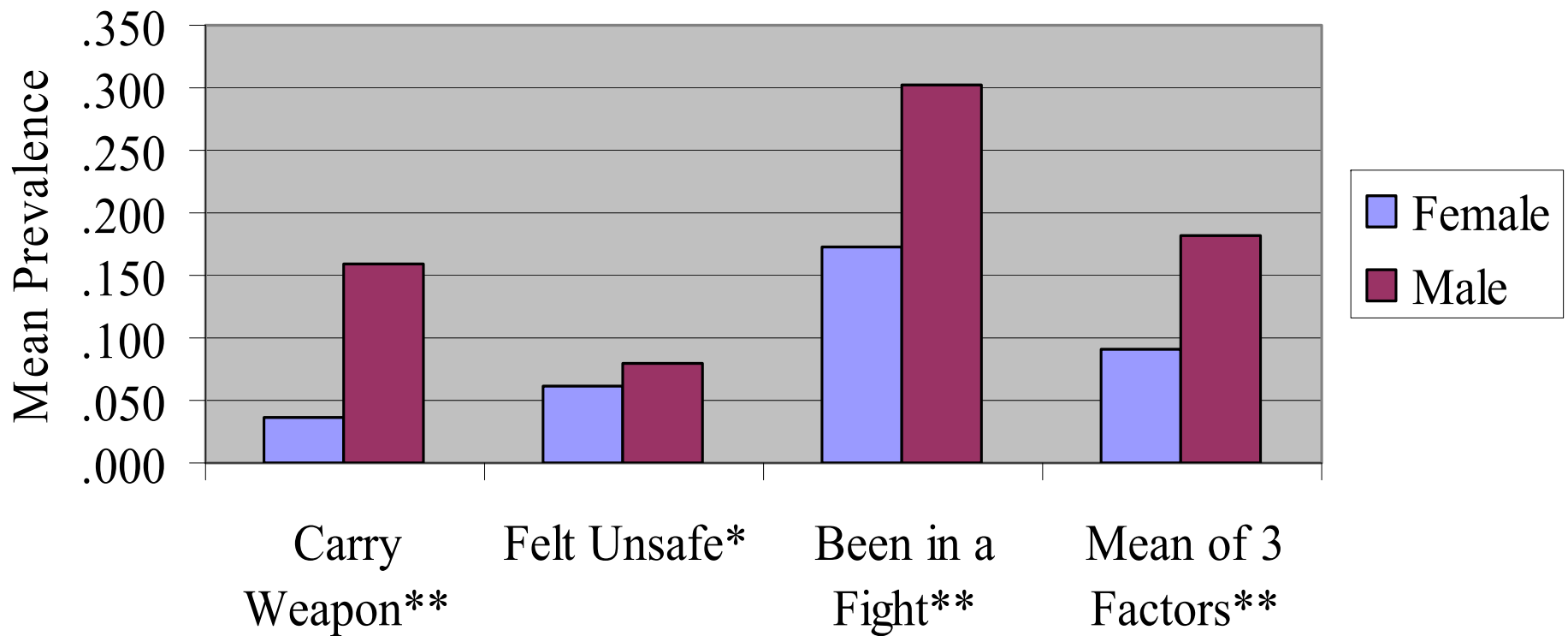
Results – Factor Scores

Overall Total



Results – Factor Scores

Females versus Males

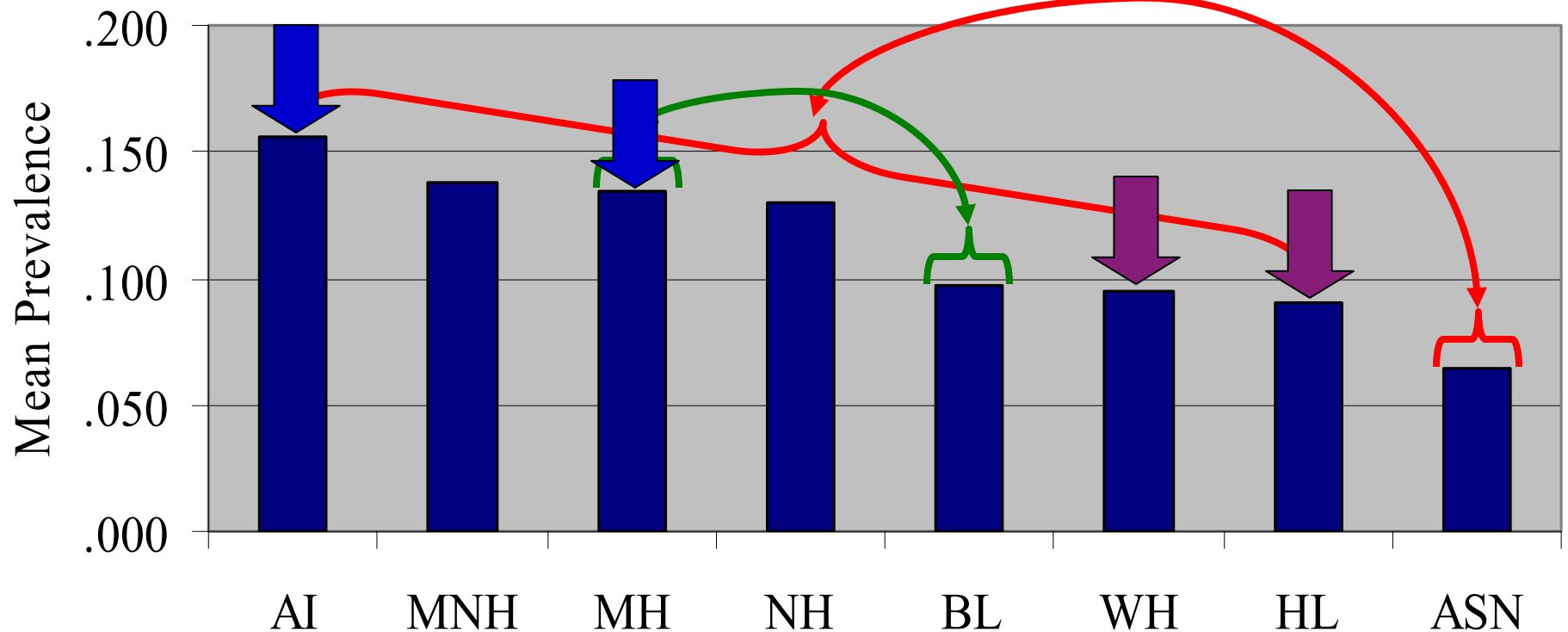


* $p < .0001$

** $p < .0001$ and $R^2 \geq .01$

Results – Factor Scores

Factor 1 (“Carry Weapon”), By Ethnicity



Significant differences at $p < .0001$ (except for NH > ASN where $p < .001$):

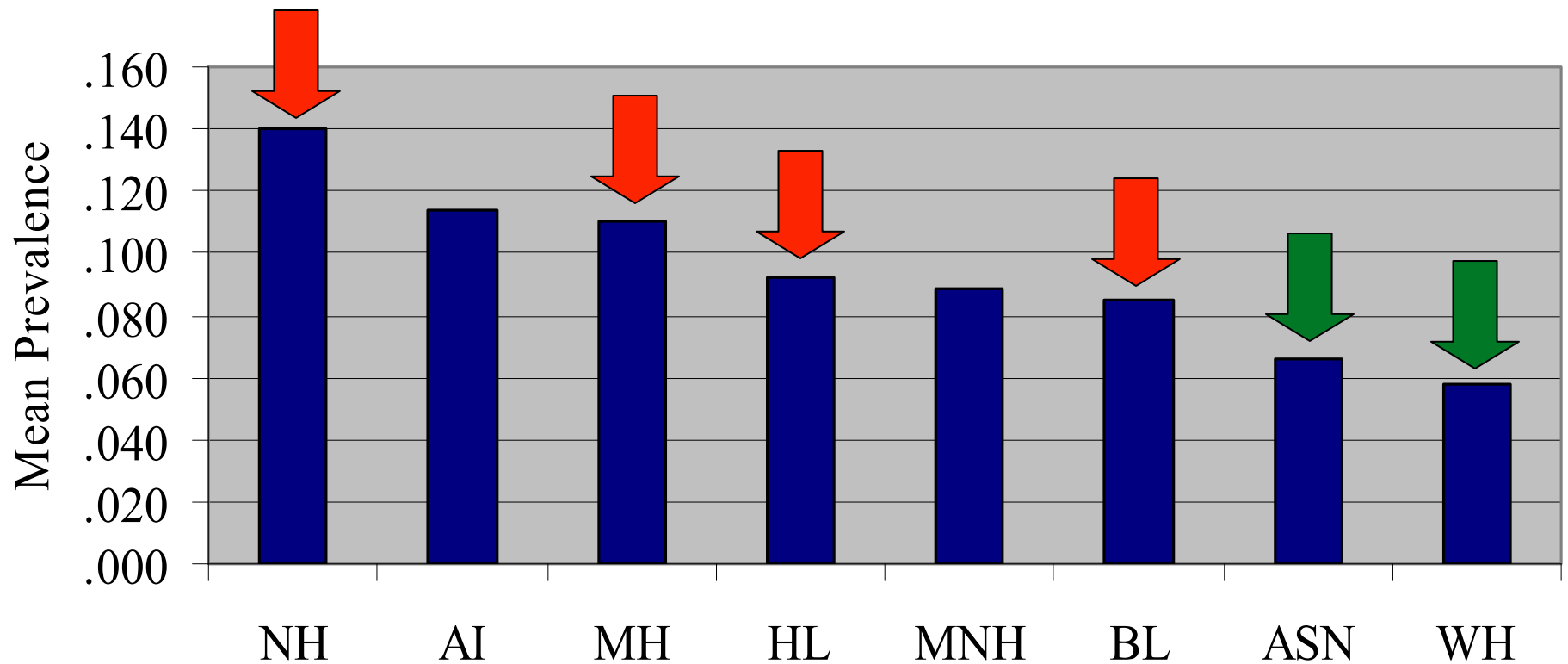
AI, MH > WH, HL

MH > BL

AI, MN, MH, BL, WH, HL > ASN

Results – Factor Scores

Factor 2 (“Felt Unsafe”), By Ethnicity



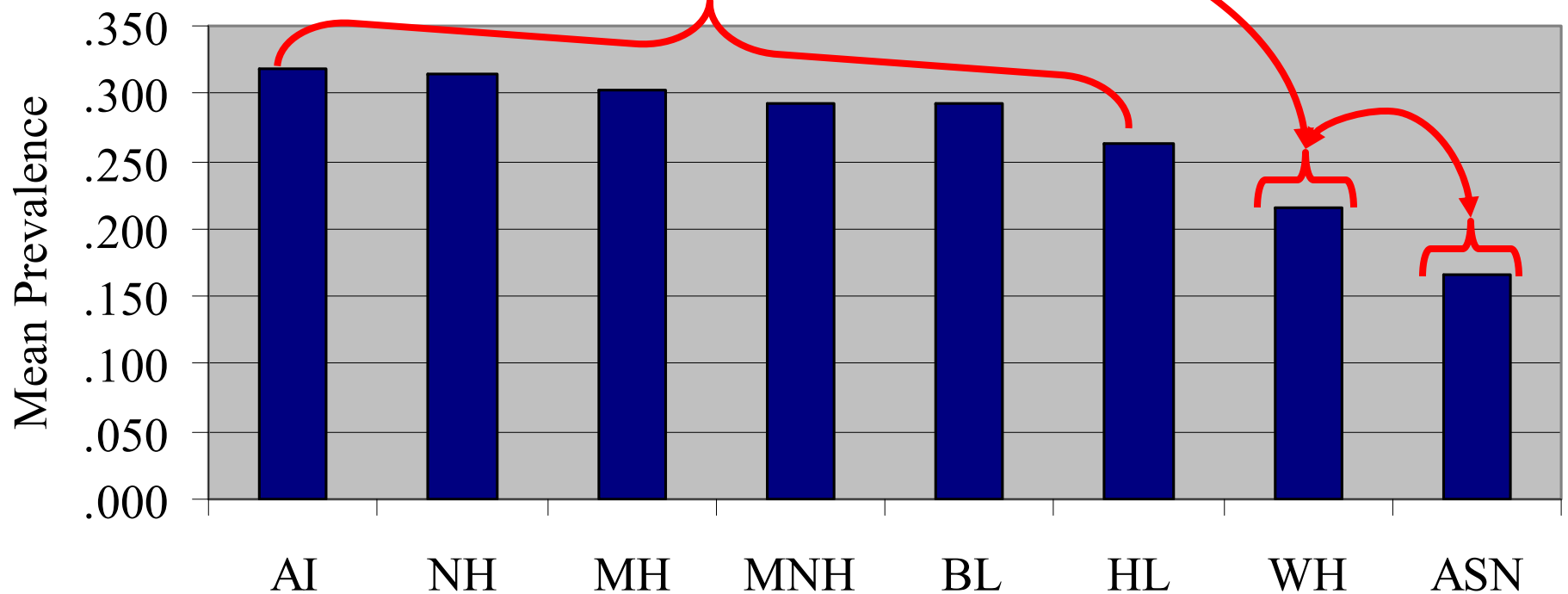
Significant differences at $p < .0001$:

NH, MH > ASN

NH, MH, HL, BL > WH

Results – Factor Scores

Factor 3 (“Been in a Fight”), By Ethnicity



Significant differences at $p < .0001$:

AI, NH, MH, MNH, BL, HL > WH > ASN

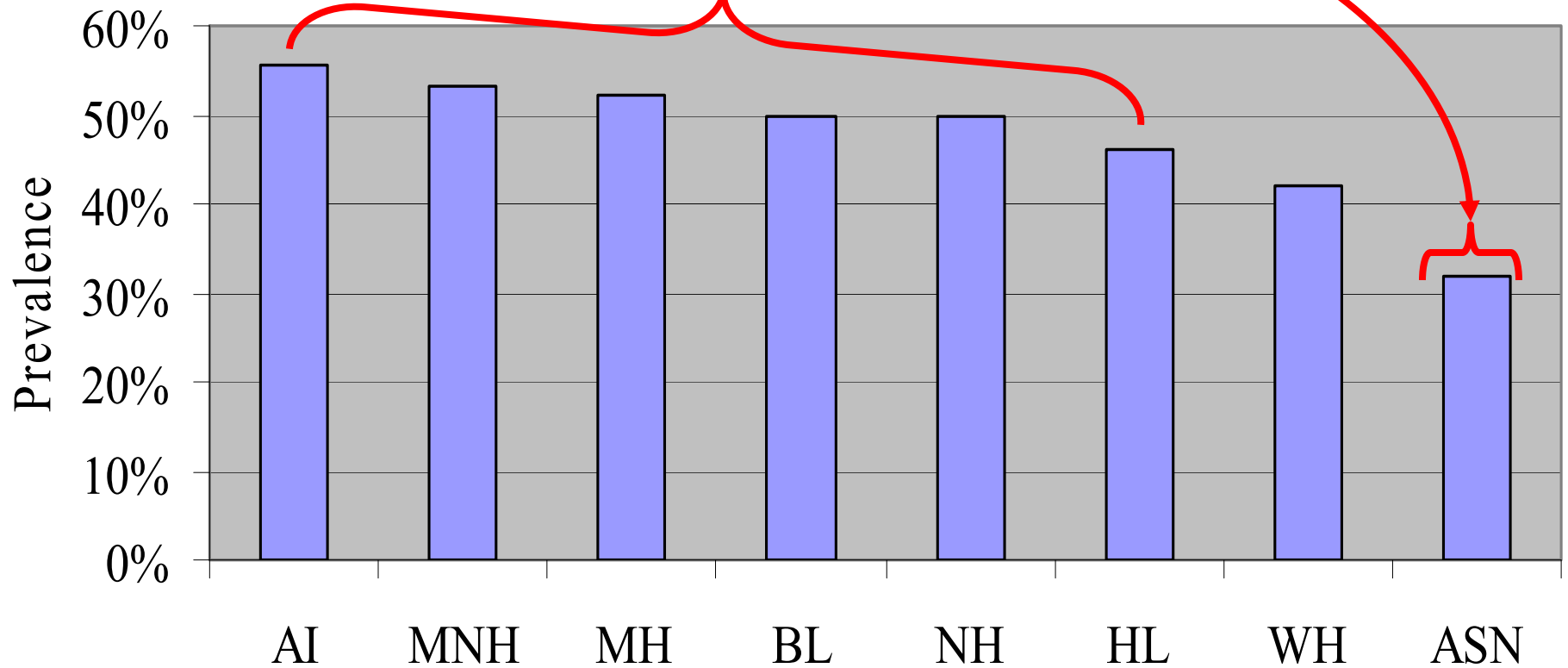
Results – Factor Scores

- Sex and ethnicity
 - Factor 1 (“Carry Weapon”) interaction significant at $p < .0001$ level
 - Male-to-female ratios:
 - American Indians/Alaska Natives: 5.92 to 1.00
 - Whites: 5.85 to 1.00
 - Hispanic/Latinos: 3.89 to 1.00
 - Mixed Non-Hispanics: 3.58 to 1.00
 - Asians: 3.43 to 1.00
 - Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders: 2.89 to 1.00
 - Black/African Americans: 2.75 to 1.00
 - Mixed Hispanics: 2.68 to 1.00

Results – “Any Violence”

Significant differences at $p < .0001$ and $R^2 \geq .01$:

AI, MNH, MH, BL, NH, HL > ASN



Discussion

- Overall
 - 44.5% of the youth responded to at least one indicator of violence
 - Does not take into account other forms of violence
- Sex
 - Males reported higher rates than females
 - Extent of disparity between males and females varied by ethnicity
 - Suggests that male/female experiences/environments are more similar in certain ethnic groups
 - Implications for interventions

Discussion

- American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders tended to have the highest rates, while Asians and Whites tended to have the lowest rates
 - Need to further disaggregate within the Asian American youth population and within the Pacific Islander population
- Mixed Hispanic and Mixed Non-Hispanic ethnic groups experienced high levels of the various violence measures, with their prevalences often being the highest or 2nd-highest

Limitations

- Sample size of Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander group was relatively smaller than the other ethnicities
- Factors comprised of few variables
- Individual youth not linked longitudinally
- Data were self-reported
- YRBSS only administered in schools

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THANK YOU



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