

Disabilities Among Korean-Americans Compared with Other Race/Ethnicity Groups

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What is disability?

- Limitations in physical or mental functioning
- Chronic conditions, lasts 6 months or longer
- Types
 - Sensory – vision or hearing
 - Physical – walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying
 - Mental – learning, remembering, or concentrating
 - Self-care – activities of daily living (ADL) including dressing, bathing, or getting around inside home
 - Go-outside – instrumental activities of living (IADL)

Why disability?

- Important health indicator
 - Over 13% of all Americans experience disability
 - Affects quality of life
 - ADL or IADL requires care-givers
 - High cost
 - Leads to other physical or mental conditions
- Racial/Ethnic disparity is well known
 - Asian or Pacific Islanders
 - Koreans > Japanese in 1990 PUMS (9.5% vs 5.0% in Self-care limitation)

Data Source

- American Community Survey
 - Annual
 - About 1.2 million people surveyed each year
 - Representing the whole US population
 - Housing, person
- Race/Ethnicity
 - Koreans are separately identified
 - Nativity identified (place of birth)

Data Source – Cont'd

- 2004 Survey
- Race/ethnicity was defined using
 - Respondent's race/ethnicity
 - Parent's race/ethnicity
- Koreans
 - Self-identified Koreans
 - One of the parents is Korean
 - Mixed race/ethnicity among Far East Asian groups not included

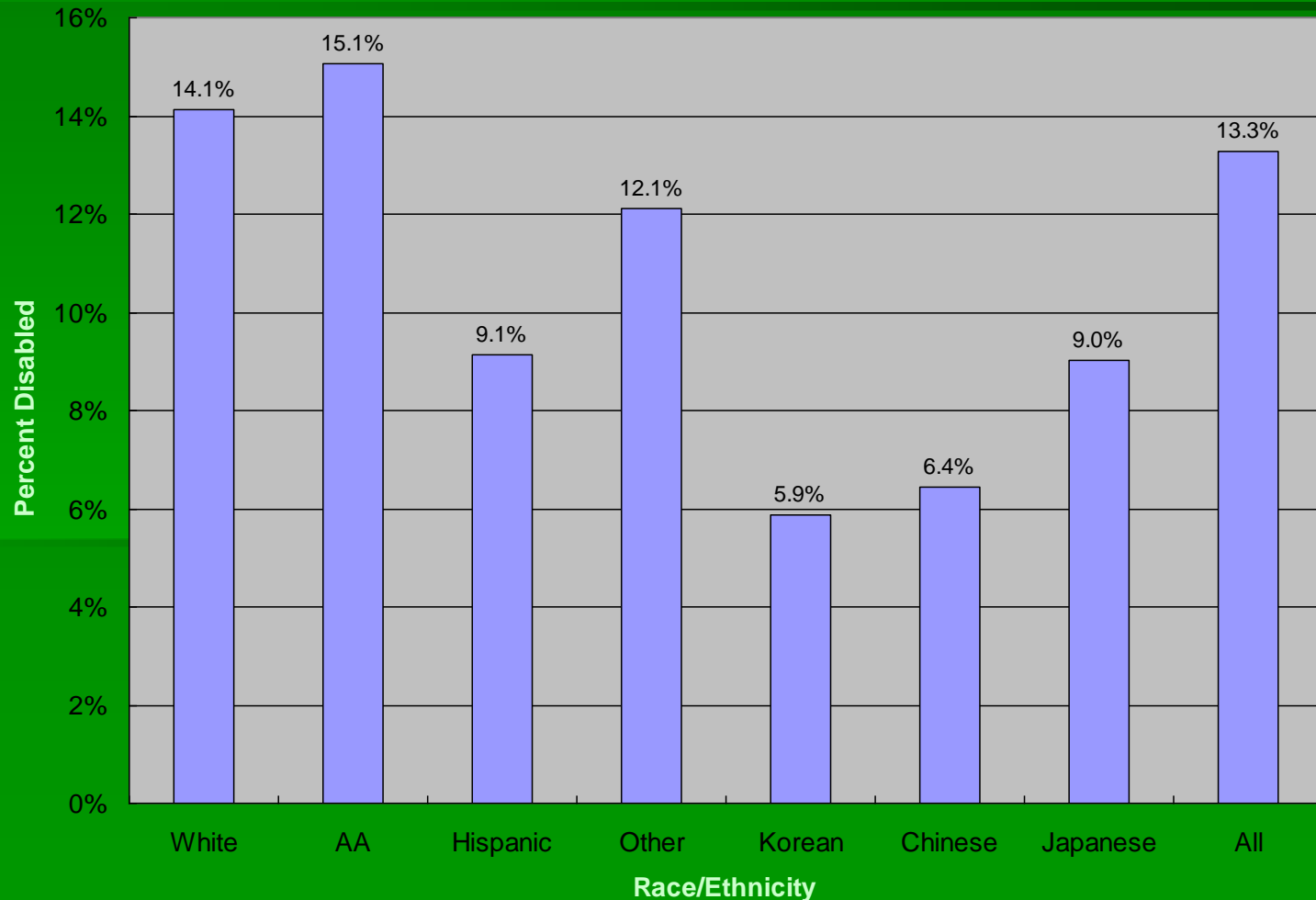
Results

- Far East Asian Ethnic Groups
 - Lower disability levels for all types
 - Koreans – one of the lowest for all types
 - Adjusted odds ratios show significant variations in disability rates among racial/ethnic groups

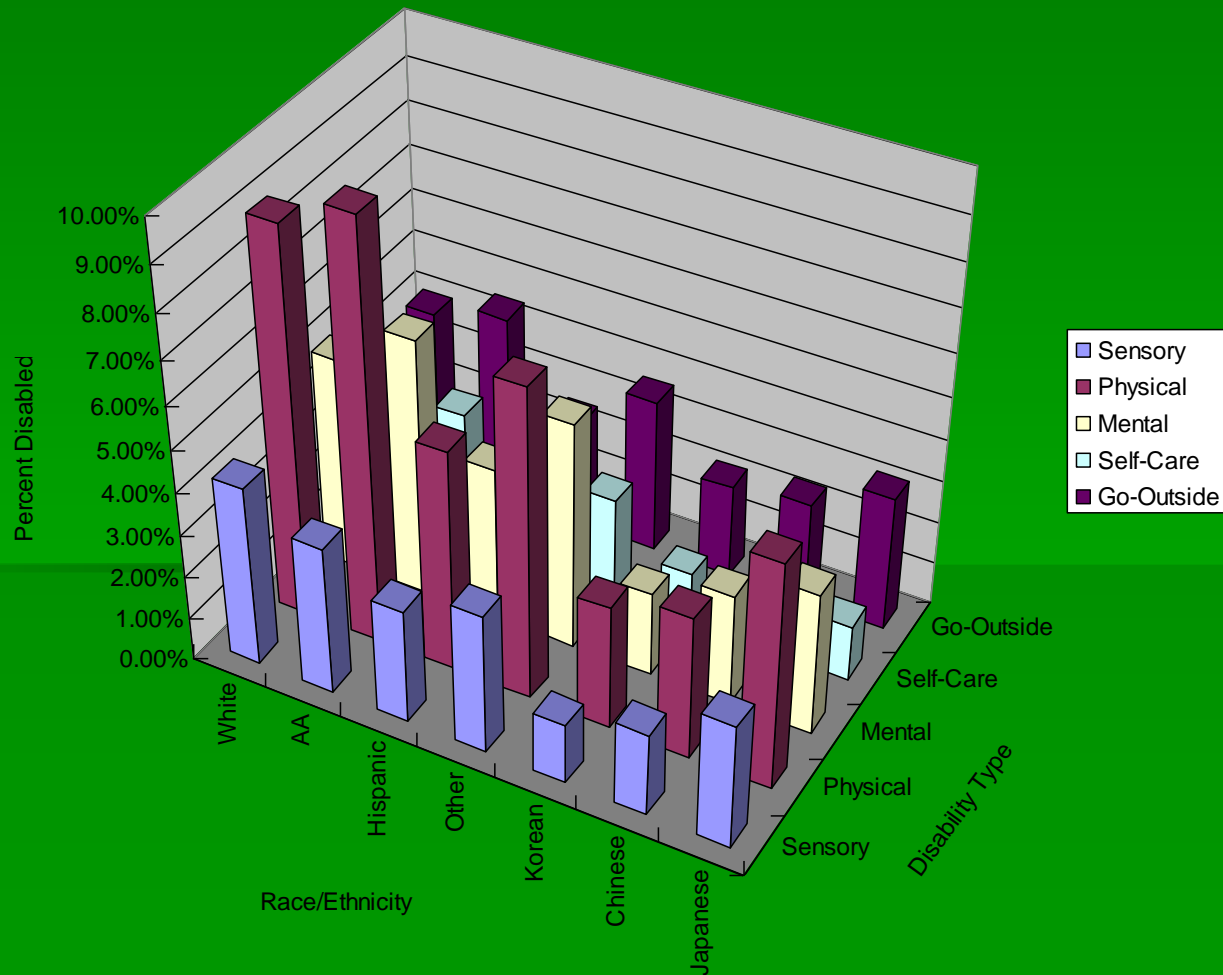
Number of People by Race/Ethnicity

	No Disability	Any Disability	Total
White	165,009,173	27,163,532	192,144,141
AA	28,991,572	5,141,362	34,104,371
Hispanic	36,646,489	3,684,643	40,331,132
Other	11,396,687	1,570,972	12,967,659
Korean	1,371,030	85,689	1,456,719
Chinese	3,227,633	222,792	3,456,138
Japanese	1,056,836	105,684	1,171,088
All	247,699,419	37,931,830	285,631,249

Crude Disability Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Crude Rates by Race and Type of Disability



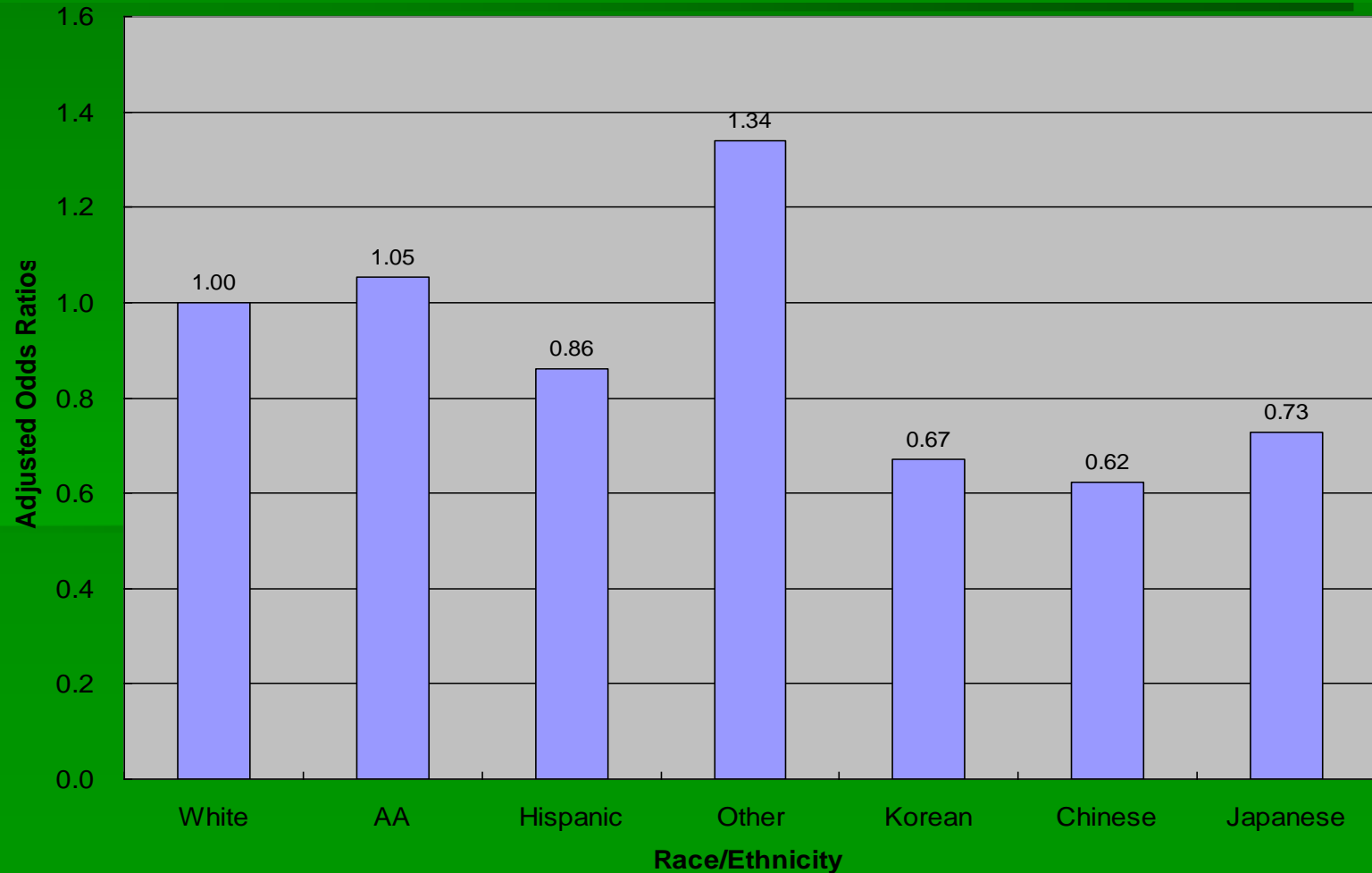
Factors Associated with Disability

- Demographic Characteristics
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Marital Status
 - Foreign-Born Status
 - Citizenship Status

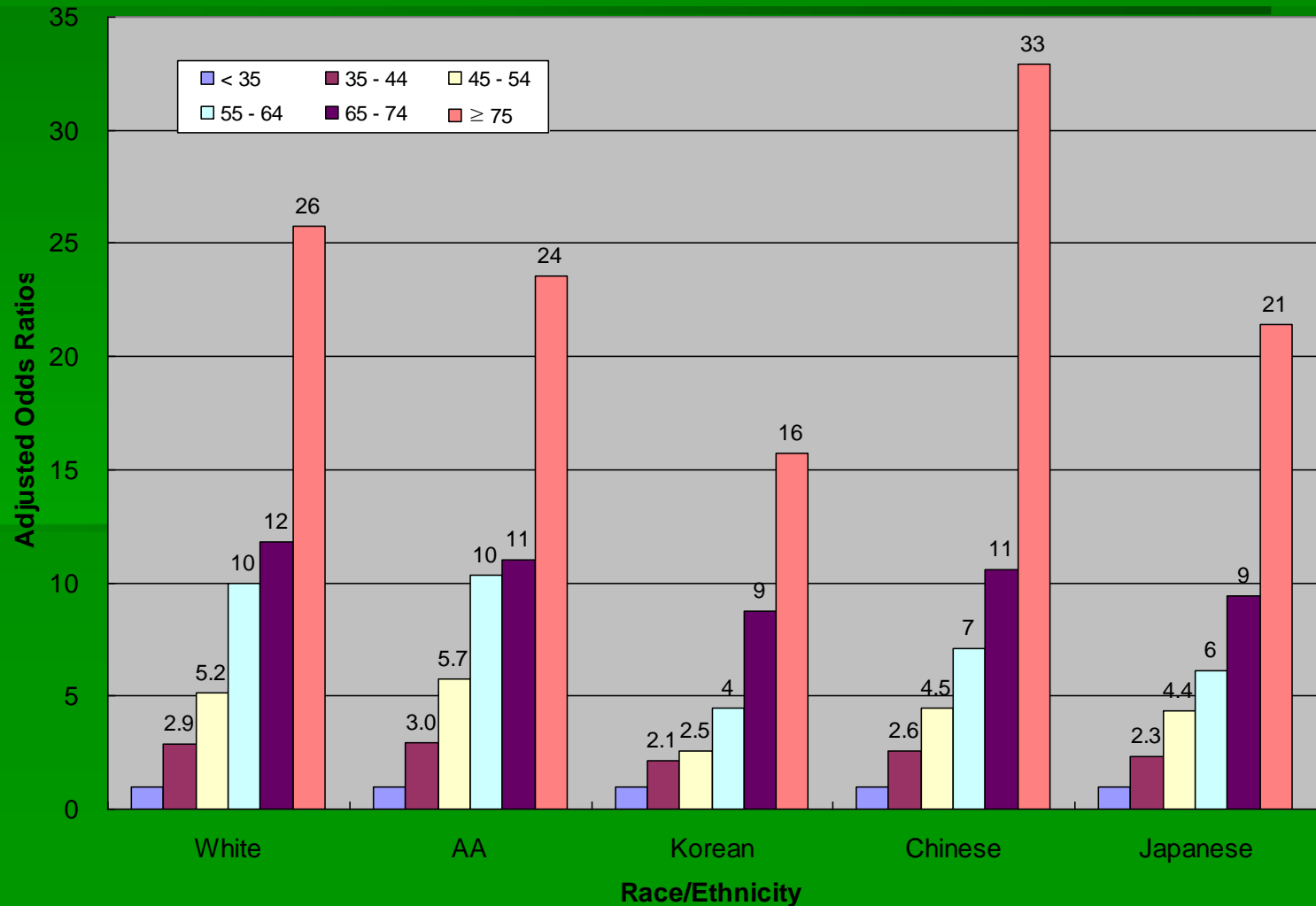
Factors Associated with Disability

- Socioeconomic Status
 - Income
 - Education
- Other Factors
 - Self Employment
 - English Proficiency

Adjusted OR by Race



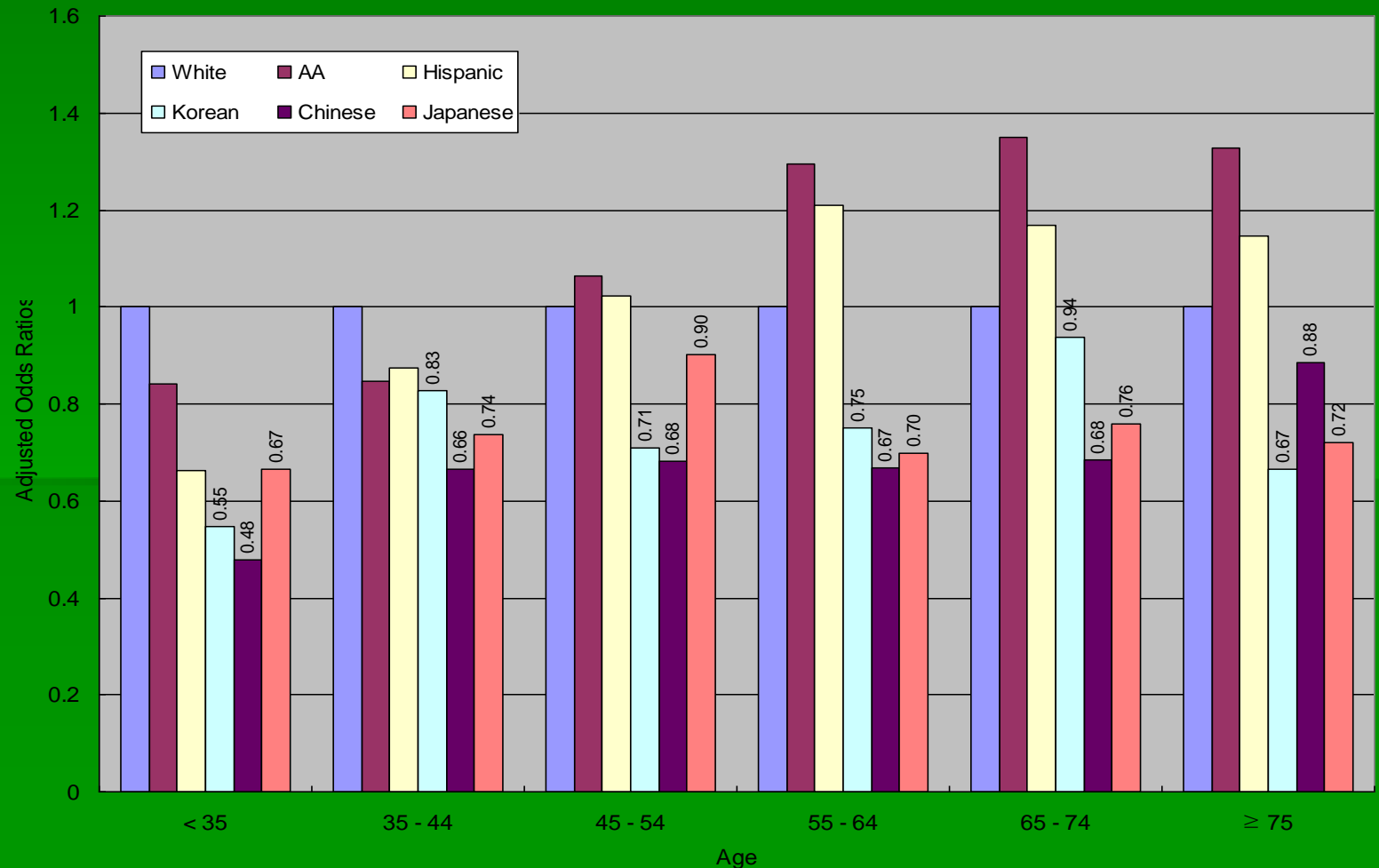
Adjusted OR by Age, Within-Race Comparison



Percent of Persons with Disability by Race and Age

	< 35	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	≥ 75	All
White	5.8%	9.3%	13.7%	21.2%	28.1%	49.6%	14.1%
AA	6.4%	12.6%	21.4%	33.6%	39.6%	60.8%	15.0%
Hispanic	4.4%	8.7%	14.5%	26.1%	33.8%	55.6%	9.1%
Other	5.7%	10.5%	17.8%	28.6%	35.4%	59.9%	12.0%
Korean	2.8%	4.3%	5.8%	10.6%	21.8%	42.0%	5.8%
Chinese	2.2%	3.4%	6.8%	11.2%	19.8%	46.6%	6.4%
Japanese	3.0%	4.2%	7.9%	11.7%	19.8%	39.6%	9.0%

Adjusted OR by Race, Within-Age Comparison



Adjusted ORs for Other Factors of Interest

	All			Koreans		
	Adjusted OR	LB	UB	Adjusted OR	LB	UB
Proficient in English	0.59	0.55	0.63	0.54	0.28	1.03
Citizen	1.65	1.57	1.74	1.91	1.31	2.79
Male	1.19	1.17	1.21	1.37	1.01	1.86
Married	0.69	0.68	0.70	0.84	0.58	1.22
Foreign Born	0.82	0.79	0.84	1.37	0.89	2.10
Self-Employed	0.68	0.66	0.70	0.89	0.57	1.38
30,000 - 54,999	0.58	0.57	0.59	0.88	0.61	1.28
55,000 - 89,999	0.43	0.42	0.44	0.83	0.57	1.22
≥ 90,000	0.33	0.33	0.34	0.53	0.36	0.77
Some College	0.78	0.77	0.79	0.79	0.55	1.14
College Grad	0.48	0.47	0.49	0.52	0.35	0.76
Post-College	0.36	0.35	0.37	0.40	0.25	0.63

What have we learned so far?

- Korean Americans among the people with lowest disability rates
- Age-specific comparisons confirm this
- In 2004 ACS, KAs < JAs overall.
However, in all age groups other than 45 - 64, JAs \leq KAs
- What happened to Japanese Americans?

Why are disability rates so low for Korean Americans?

- Data non-randomly missing for Korean Americans – unlikely
- Cultural differences in perception of disability
 - Shame factor
 - Different definition of disability
 - KAs less likely to disclose disability
 - CAs or JAs have similar cultural backgrounds
- Disability and mortality are competing risks
 - KAs may die more frequently than persons in other races before they develop disability.
- Baseline differences may explain later-life disability variations

Where do we go from here?

- Health data for Korean Americans lacking
 - Life table for Korean Americans does not exist
 - Prevalence of chronic conditions not known
 - Health insurance and utilization not known
 - Competing risks require prospective data collection
- Minority health is an important issue
 - KARDI may develop a proposal for studying issues related to health of Korean Americans
 - KARDI better suited to studying culturally sensitive health issues of Korean Americans
- Korean community
 - Increased awareness of healthcare issues
 - Conditions affecting KAs may be different from those affecting other race/ethnicity groups (e.g., obesity, diabetes)

End