

Understanding Consent for Physical Measurements, Biomarker Collection, and Administrative Data Linkage in the Health and Retirement Study

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Enhancing self-reports with...

- Anthropometrics
- Physical functions
- Biomarkers
 - Saliva
 - Blood
- Administrative data
 - Social Security No.
 - Medical Records No.

Pros and Cons

+ Objective data

+ Readily available

- How objective?

- How readily?

- How accurate?

- Consents required; an added layer of **nonresponse**

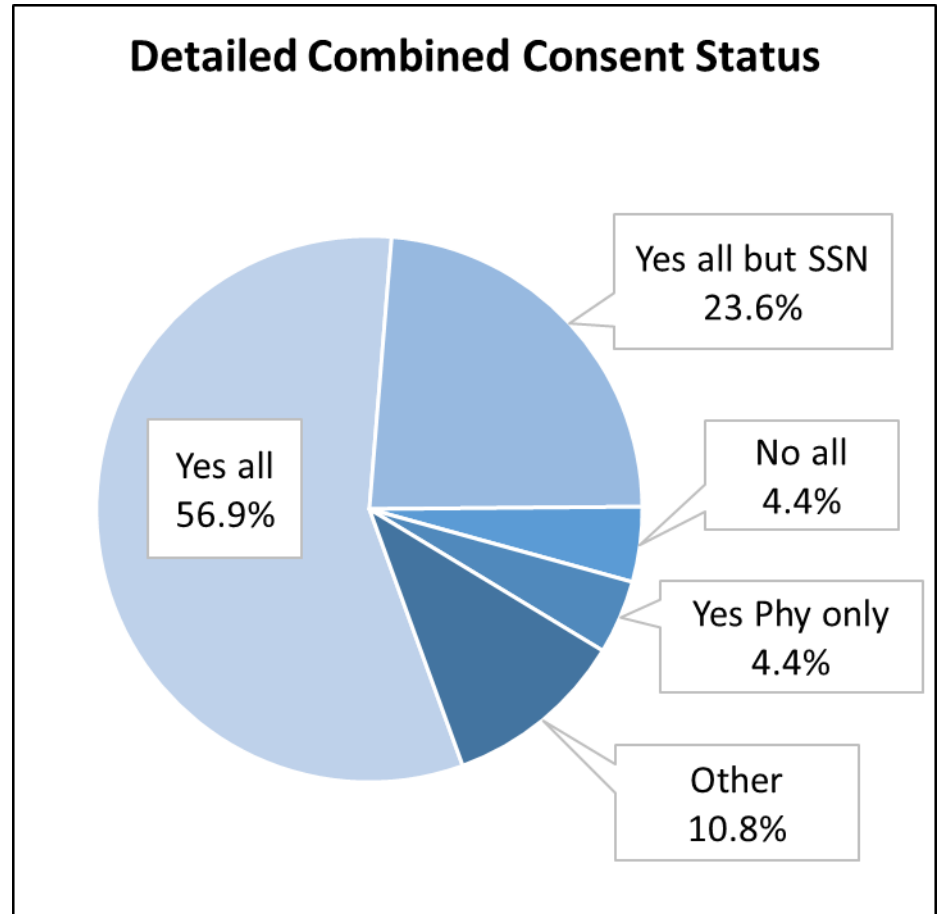
→ Same issues as nonresponse

Health and Retirement Study

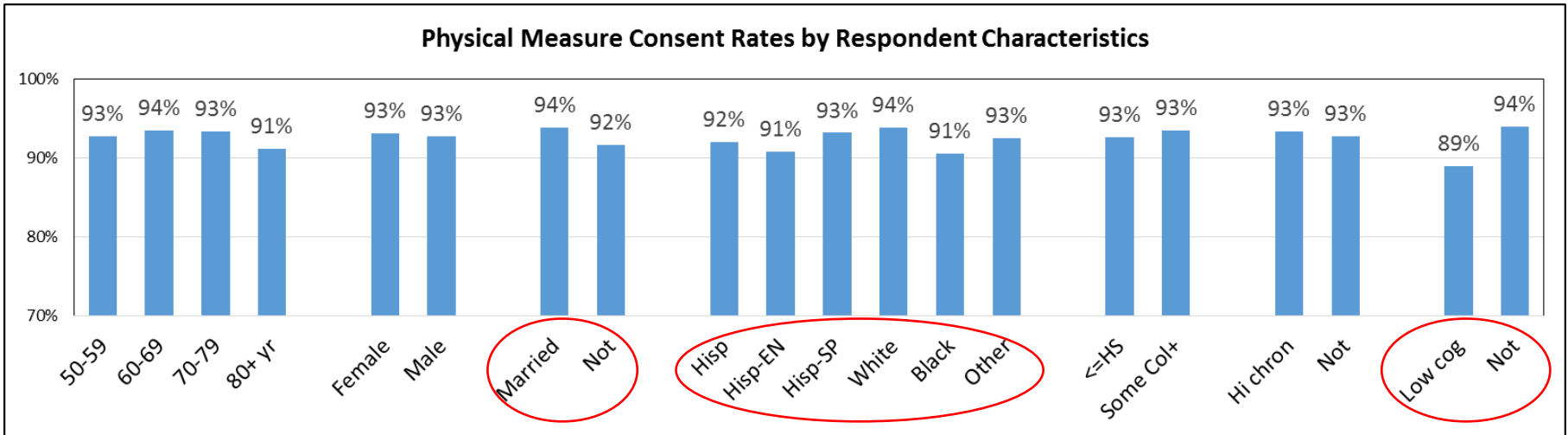
- Data from 2006, 2008, and 2010
 - Streamlined consent processes
 - Enhanced face-to-face mode
 - Sequence:
Physical measures → Saliva → Blood → Social Sec. No.
- Analysis
 - Those who were asked on 4 consents in the same year
 - Ages 50+ (Some 65+)
 - Excludes proxy responses
 - n=11,467

Results – Consent rates and status

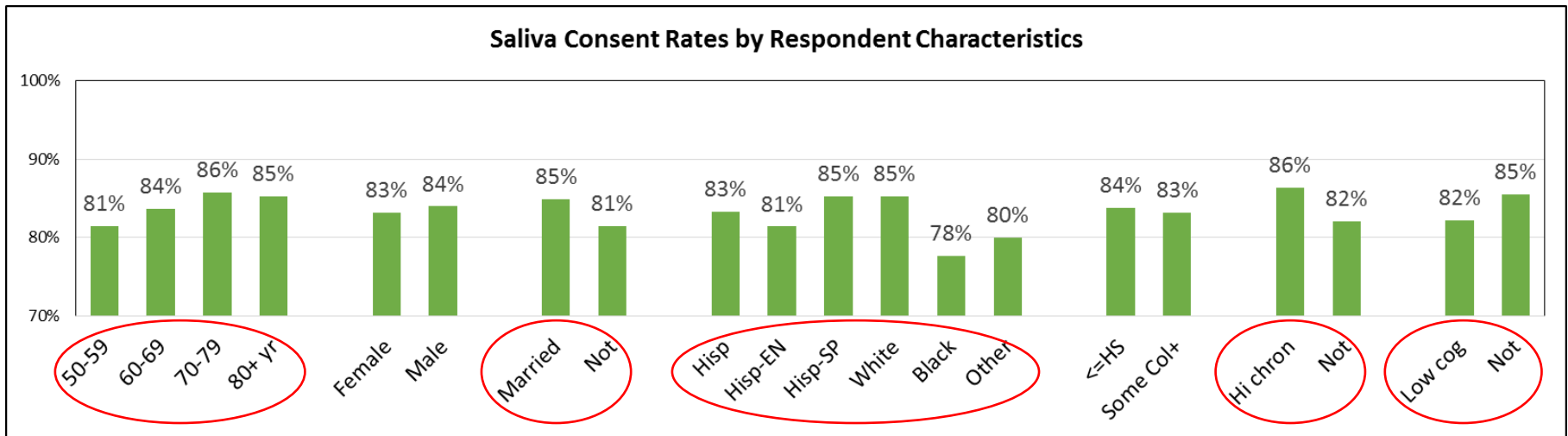
	Consent Rate	SE
Physical	93.0%	0.2%
Saliva	83.5%	0.3%
Blood	84.9%	0.3%
SSN	63.8%	0.4%



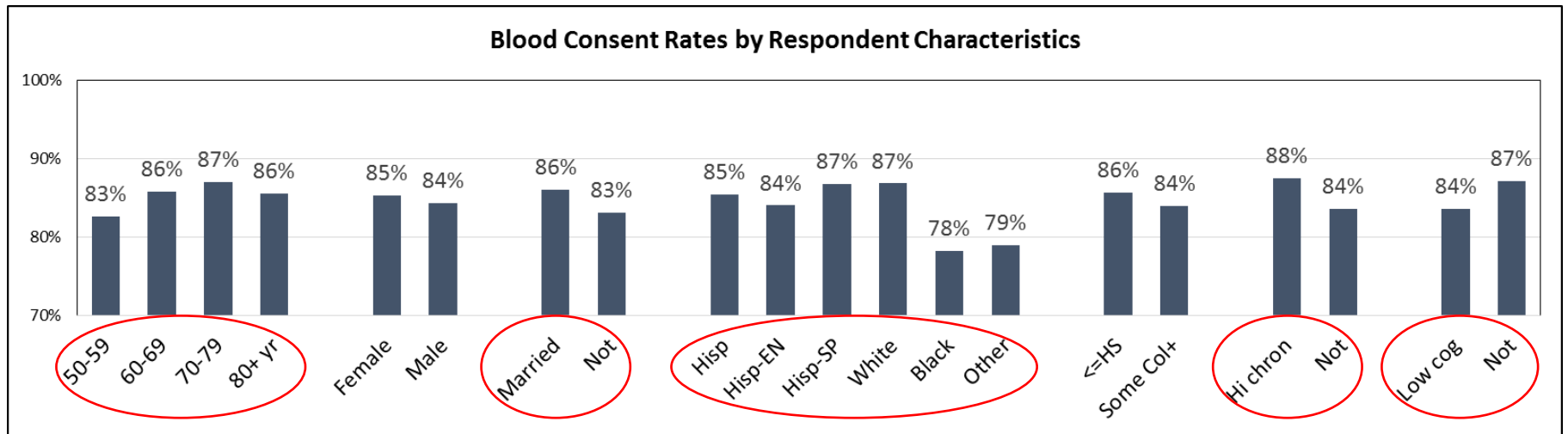
Results – Physical measure consent rates



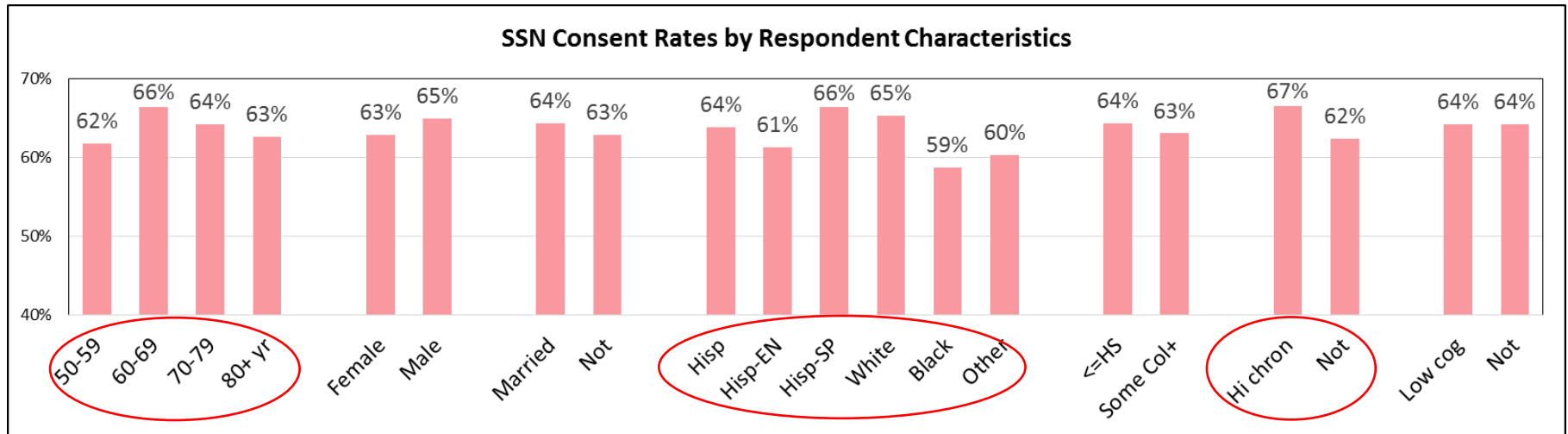
Results – Saliva consent rates



Results – Blood consent rates



Results – SSN consent rates



Results – Multivariate consent

	Yes to Physical	Yes to Saliva	Yes to Blood	Yes to SSN
Age (yrs)	+	+	+	-
Female vs. Male	+	-	+	-
Hisp_E vs. White	-	-	-	-
Hisp_S vs. White	+	+	-	+
Black vs. White	-	-	-	-
Other vs. White	+	-	-	-
Educ (yrs)	-	-	-	+
Married vs. Not	+	+	+	+
# Chronic conditions	-	+	+	+
Cognition score	+	+	+	+

 Significant at $p < 0.05$

Implications

- Consent rates not 100%
- Consent to the first request matters (perhaps)
- Consent rates vary by respondent characteristics
- Consistently lower consent rates by
 - Blacks compared to Whites
 - Not married compared to married
 - Those with lower than higher cognitive capabilities→ Less likely to be in the data requiring consents

Future Plans

- More correlates of nonconsent
- Detailed consent status as dependent variable
- Why do cognitive capabilities matter?
 - Digital recording
- Consent vs. Actual completion
 - Acquiescence bias?