

## Quantitative Methods Annotated Bibliography

Lincoln, Karen D and David T. Takeuchi 2010. "Variation in the Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms: Results from the Americans' Changing Lives Study". *Biodemography and Social Biology*, 56:24-41.

In this social biology article, the authors describe an alternative statistical approach that they used to study depression among African-American and White adults, in order to understand if factors within and between groups influenced the disease. Specifically, the study looked at variables such as race, age, marital status, socio-economics (education and income) and social relations as factors that contribute to depression. The 16-year, four "wave" study followed 3,485 African-American and White adults to determine if and what interaction among these variables led to depression.

The *question researched* was: is there an association between social relationships, demographics, ethnicity and depression? The *data used* was from the American's Changing Lives Panel Study, and was modeled using Cronbach's alpha run on Mplus 5.2 software.

The *conclusion* revealed that while other studies used ethnicity as the primary determinant of depression, other key factors such as heterogeneity within racial groups were ignored, and those other factors play a significant role in determining whether or not a person will develop depression. The robust statistical method used for the analysis was the article's *strength*, while the technical and complex writing style was a *weakness* that left the reader puzzling over the analysis and conclusions.