



JOHNS HOPKINS  
SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

# Hearing Care Disparities Among Older Asian Americans in the United States from 2016-2018

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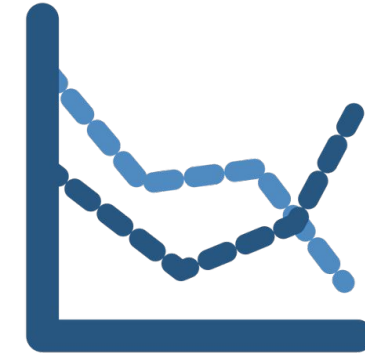
# Background



Nearly a **third** of all adults 60+ have hearing loss



Hearing loss associated with **physical** and **financial** burdens



Hearing aid uptake is **less than 20%**

# Disparities in Hearing Care

- Hearing Aid (HA) ownership grew from 2011 to 2018, but not proportionally by race, sex, and socioeconomic status
- Black and Hispanic adults utilized HA at lower rates as compared to overall population
- Low income associated with lower rates of HA use and ownership



# Asian American (AA) Health



- Fastest growing minority group in US
- Less than 1% NIH funding directed towards AA health
- Disparities in mental healthcare, cancer outcomes
- AA aged 20-69 less likely to have received hearing tests and use HA compared to White Americans in 2011-2012

# Goals of Research

This study aims to explore hearing aid use disparities among older AA (60+) as well as the factors that may contribute to inequity.

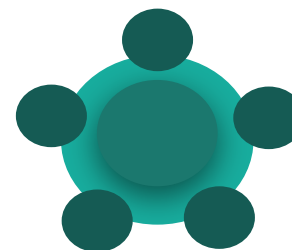
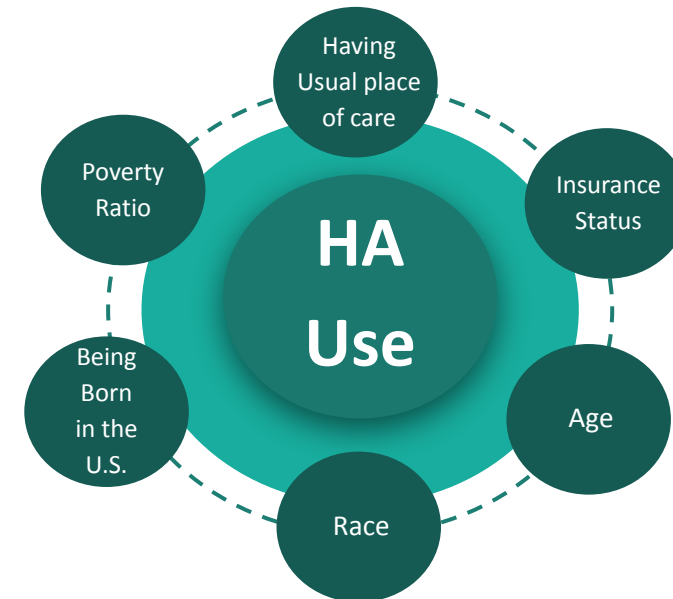
# Methods

- The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
  - Ongoing cross-sectional nationally-representative survey
  - Civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States
- Participants older than 60 from 2016-2018 who had hearing data available were included (n=25,537).

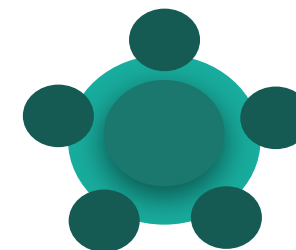
Variables of Interest
Hearing Aid Use
Race
Age
Poverty Ratio
Usual Place of Care
Insurance Coverage
Being Born in U.S.

# Methods

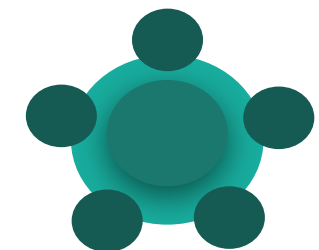
- Step 1: Logistic regression to estimate odds ratios of HA use adjusted for SES factors among elderly Americans aged 60+
- Step 2: Stratified models by racial group to characterize group specific risk factors for HA use



White Americans Aged 60+

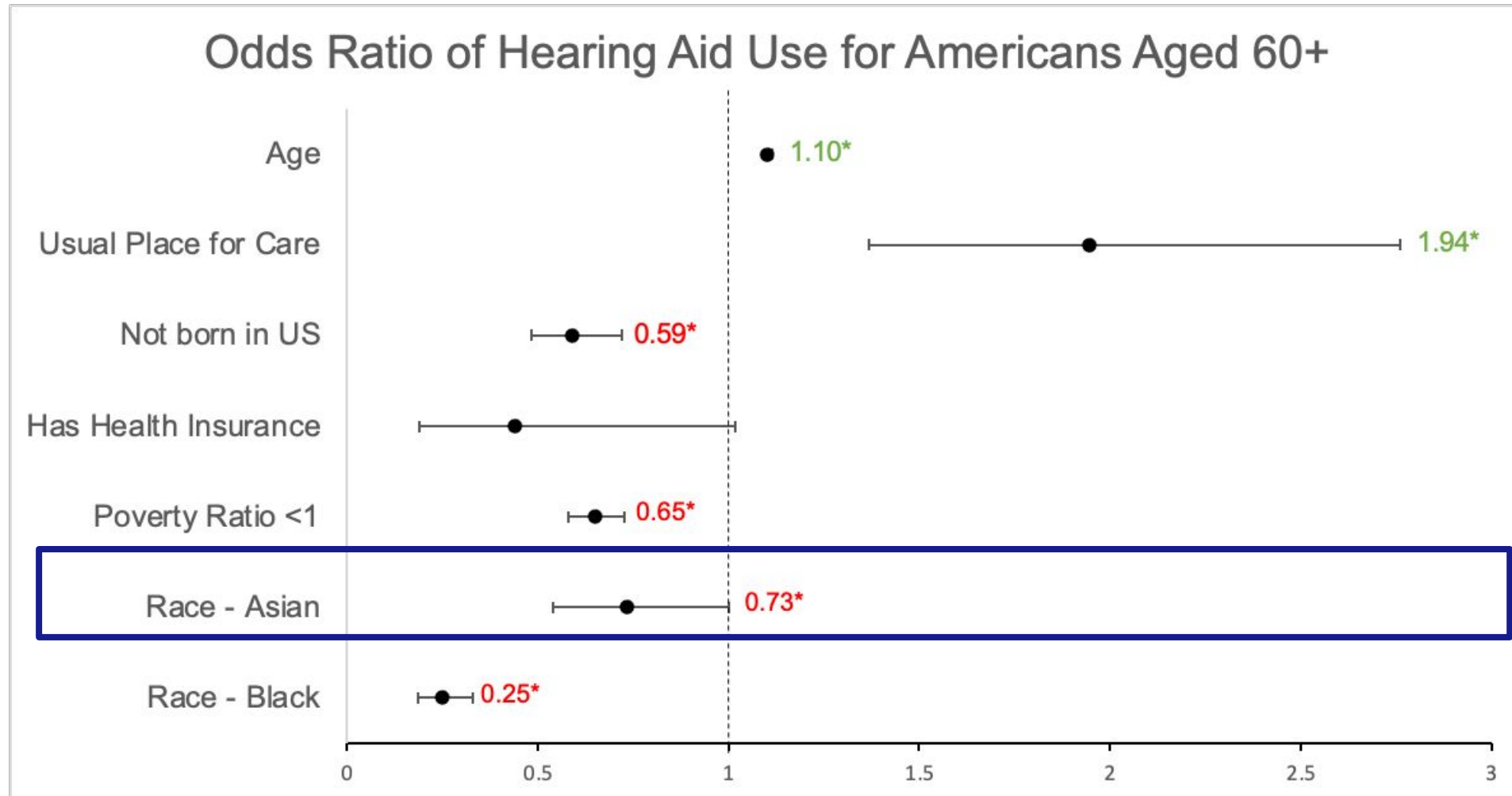


Black Americans Aged 60+



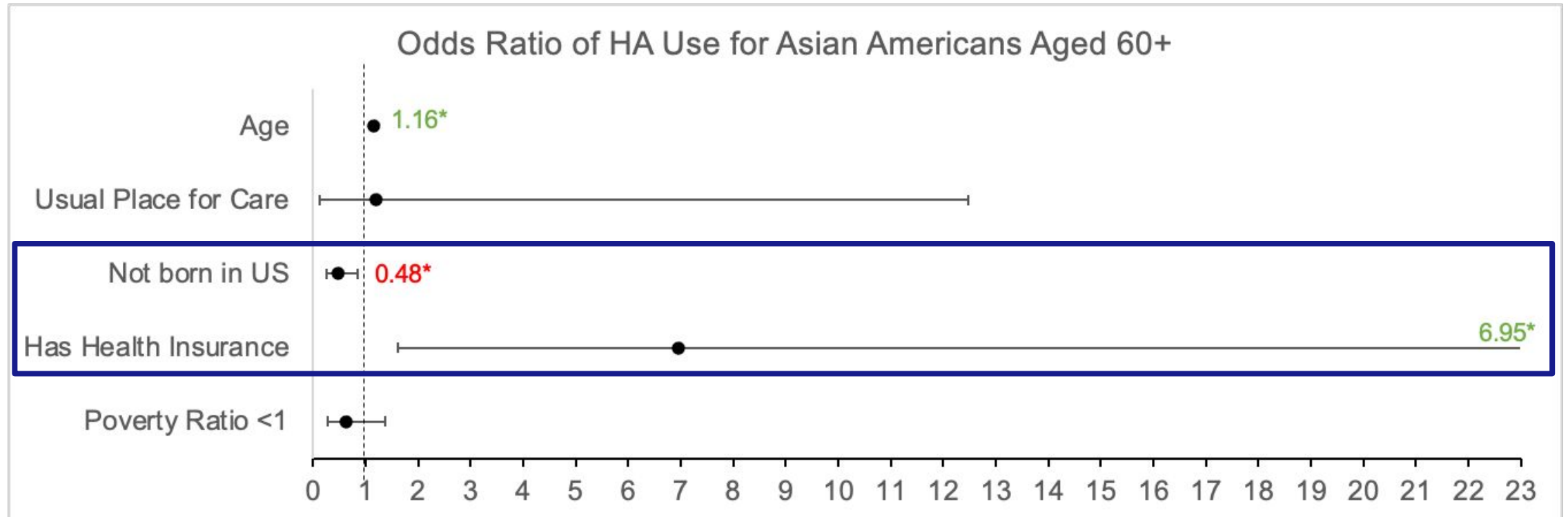
Asian Americans Aged 60+

# Results

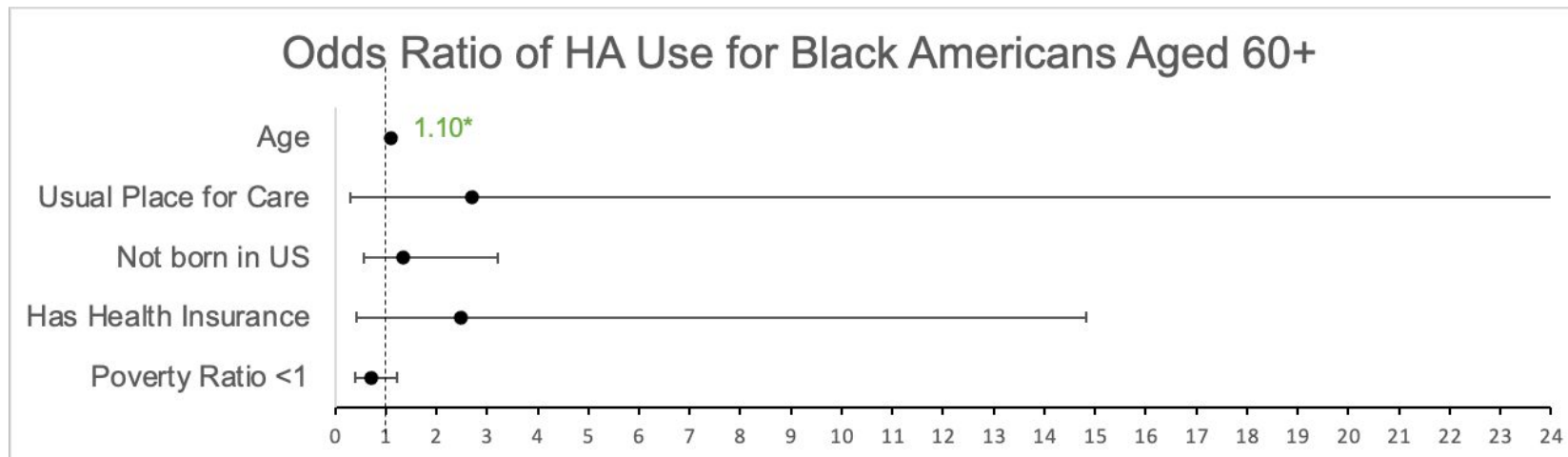
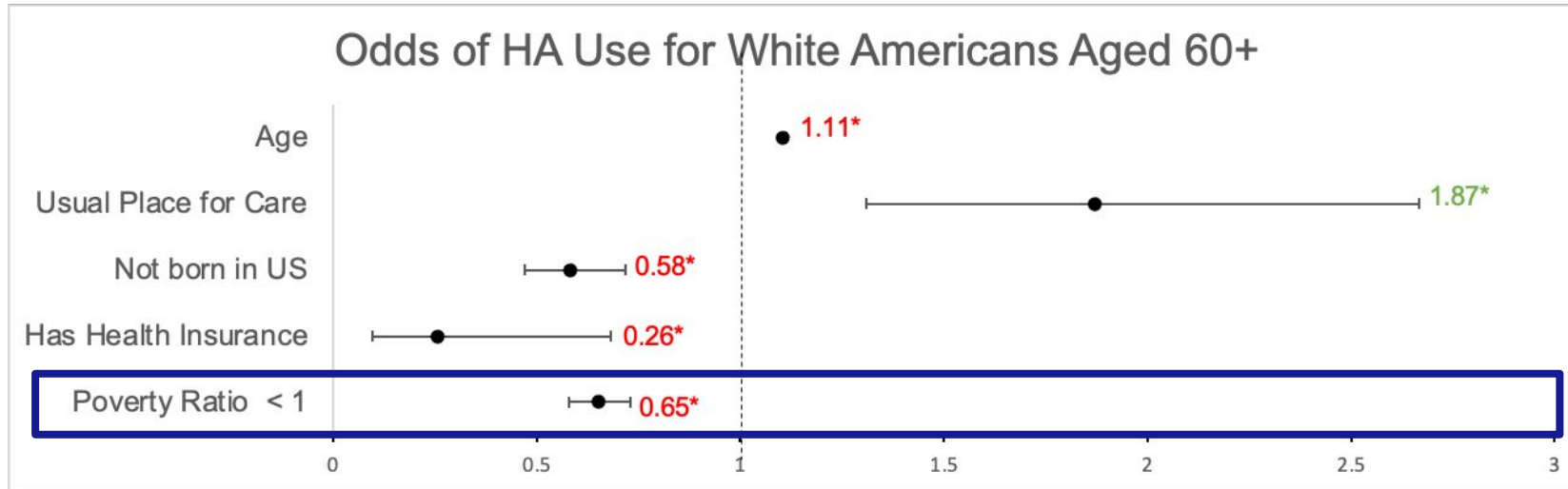




# Results



# Results



# Possible Explanations

Stigma and  
Differing  
Perceptions of  
Hearing Loss



Language  
Barriers and  
Traditional  
Medicine  
Practices



Insurance  
Difficulties  
  
Welfare Reform  
Act of 1996



Lower rates of hearing care utilization

# Conclusions

- Older AA are less likely to use HA than White Americans
- Socioeconomic trends with HA use that hold for White Americans do not hold for AA
- Certain AA subpopulations (uninsured and not born in US) appear to be at higher risk for HA use disparities
- Heterogeneity of AA population could mask subgroup differences; next steps include ethnicity level analysis

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# References

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