

Title: Concordance of race and Hispanic origin among 2010-2018 National Health Interview Survey participants linked to Veterans Affairs administrative data

NCHS survey data have been linked to Veterans Affairs (VA) administrative data from the USVETS database containing information on active-duty service in the United States uniformed services and VA benefit program utilization. The following table shows the concordance between self-reported race and Hispanic origin in the 2010-2018 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) public-use files and race and Hispanic origin information in the VA administrative data, through fiscal year 2020. NHIS collects self-reported race and Hispanic origin as part of the sample adult interview, whereas VA administrative data utilize multiple sources, including purchased data, for race and Hispanic origin information. The sample includes adult (18+) linkage eligible NHIS participants who linked to a VA administrative record (n = 21,356). NHIS self-reported race and Hispanic origin were considered the gold standard for comparison purposes.

Overall agreement between NHIS self-reported race and Hispanic origin and VA administrative data was 92.9% but varied by race and Hispanic origin. Agreement with race and Hispanic origin information in the VA administrative data was 93.7% among NHIS respondents reporting their race and Hispanic origin as Black, non-Hispanic; 96.2% for NHIS respondents reporting White, non-Hispanic; 57.7% for NHIS respondents reporting Other, non-Hispanic; and 71.2% for NHIS respondents reporting Hispanic.

Table 1. Concordance of race and Hispanic origin between National Health Interview Survey self-reported information and United States Veterans Affairs administrative data

NHIS self-reported race and Hispanic origin					
Race and Hispanic origin from VA administrative data	Black, non-Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Other, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Total
Black, non-Hispanic	2,993 (93.7%)	154 (1.0%)	22 (3.1%)	33 (2.4%)	3,202
White, non-Hispanic	145 (4.5%)	15,429 (96.2%)	229 (31.8%)	277 (19.8%)	16,080
Other, non-Hispanic	20 (0.6%)	211 (1.3%)	415 (57.7%)	94 (6.7%)	740
Hispanic	35 (1.1%)	249 (1.6%)	53 (7.4%)	997 (71.2%)	1,334
Total	3,193 (100%)	16,043 (100%)	719 (100%)	1,401 (100%)	21,356

Overall Agreement: 92.9%
 $(2,993+15,429+415+997)/21,356$

Notes: NHIS is National Health Interview Survey. VA is Veterans Administration. Counts and percentages are unweighted. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

NHIS collects detailed information on the race and Hispanic origin of survey respondents. This analysis used the publicly available HISCODI3 variable, which imputes values for some records.

Column percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Health Interview Survey 2010-2018 linked to VA administrative data through fiscal year 2020.

Descriptions of the VA administrative data files that have been linked to NCHS survey data can be found in the following online report:

[The Linkage of the National Center for Health Statistics Survey Data to United States Department of Veterans Affairs Administrative Data: Linkage Methodology and Analytic Considerations](#) [PDF – 561 KB]