



OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



HEALTH LITERACY GRANTEE MEETING

December 15, 2008





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Some issues to keep in mind as we look to the future...





Chart 2-2. Minority groups will compose almost half of the U.S. population by 2050; the biggest increase will occur within the Hispanic population.

Projected percentage change in racial/ethnic composition of the United States population, 2000 to 2050

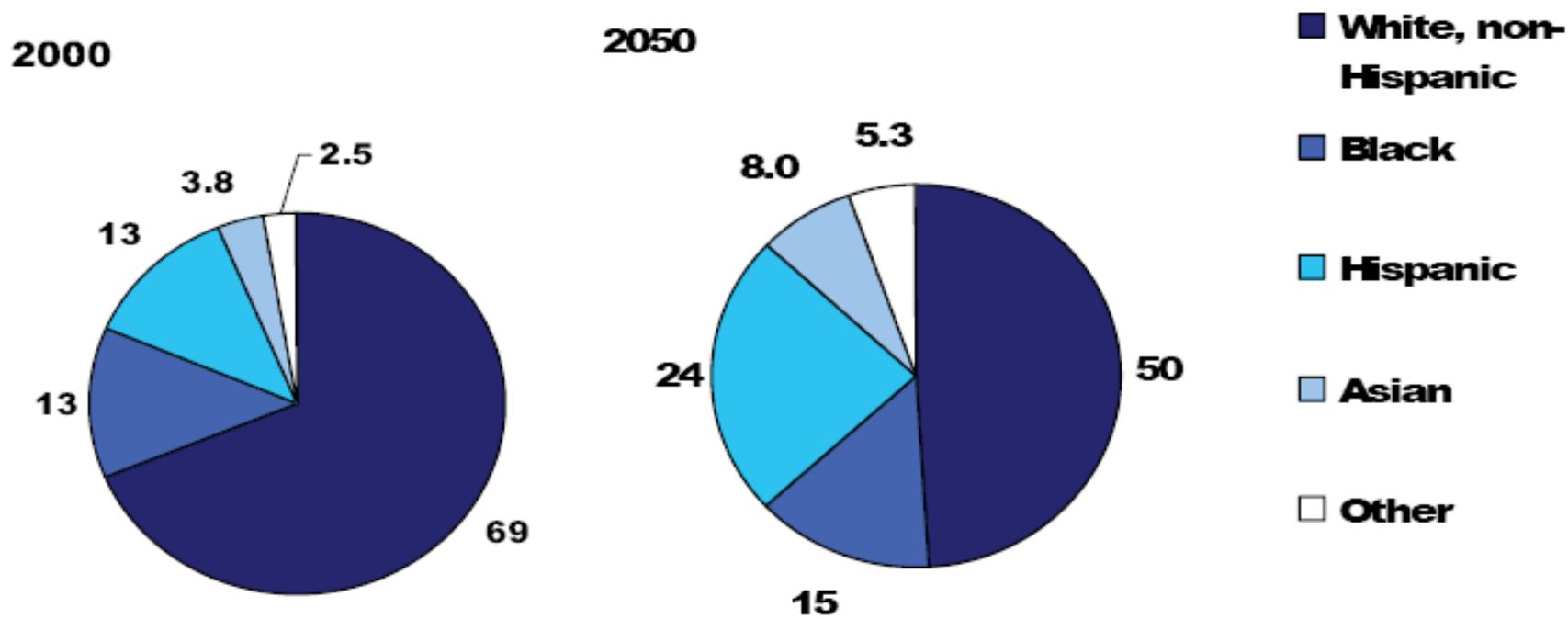




Chart 2-3. Blacks and Hispanics are twice as likely to live in poverty as whites and Asians.

Percentage of population by Federal Poverty Level, 2004

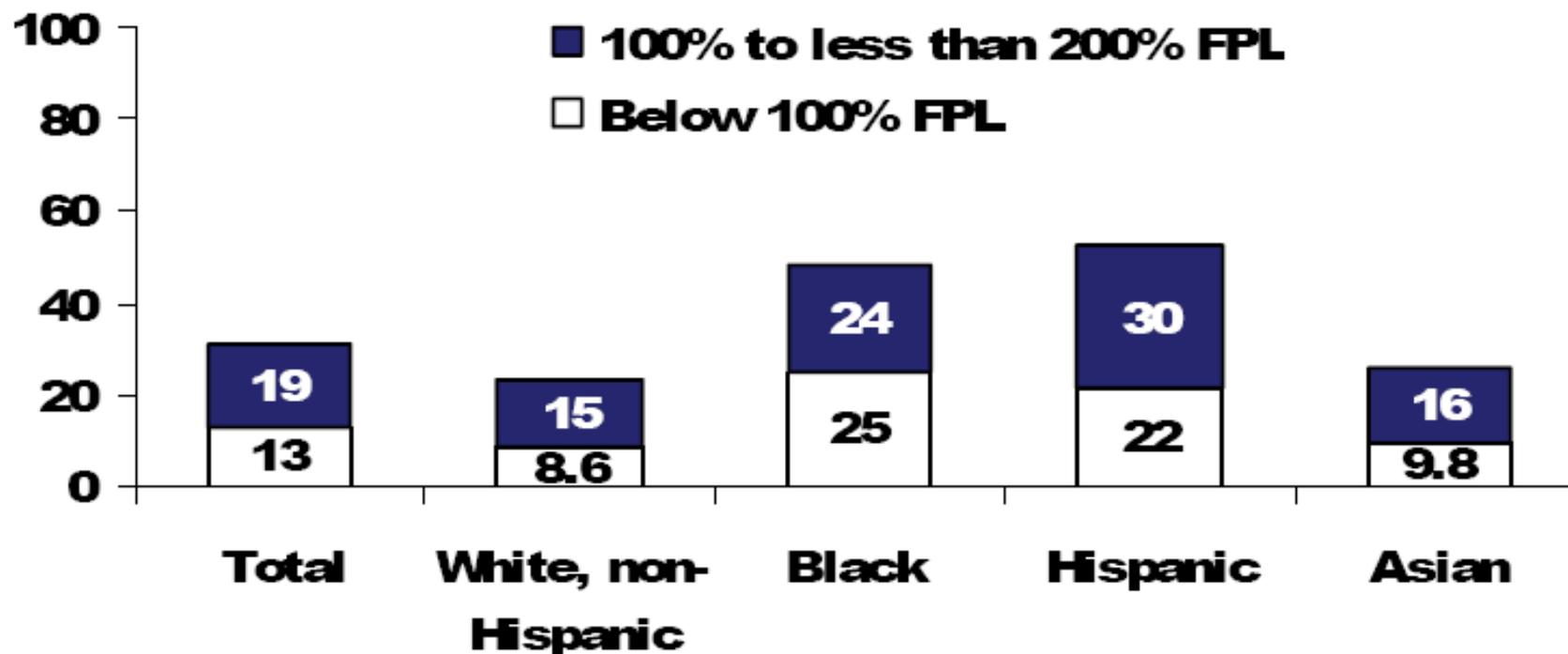




Chart 2-5. Blacks and Hispanics have lower levels of educational attainment.

**Percentage of population age 25 and older
by education level achieved, 2003**

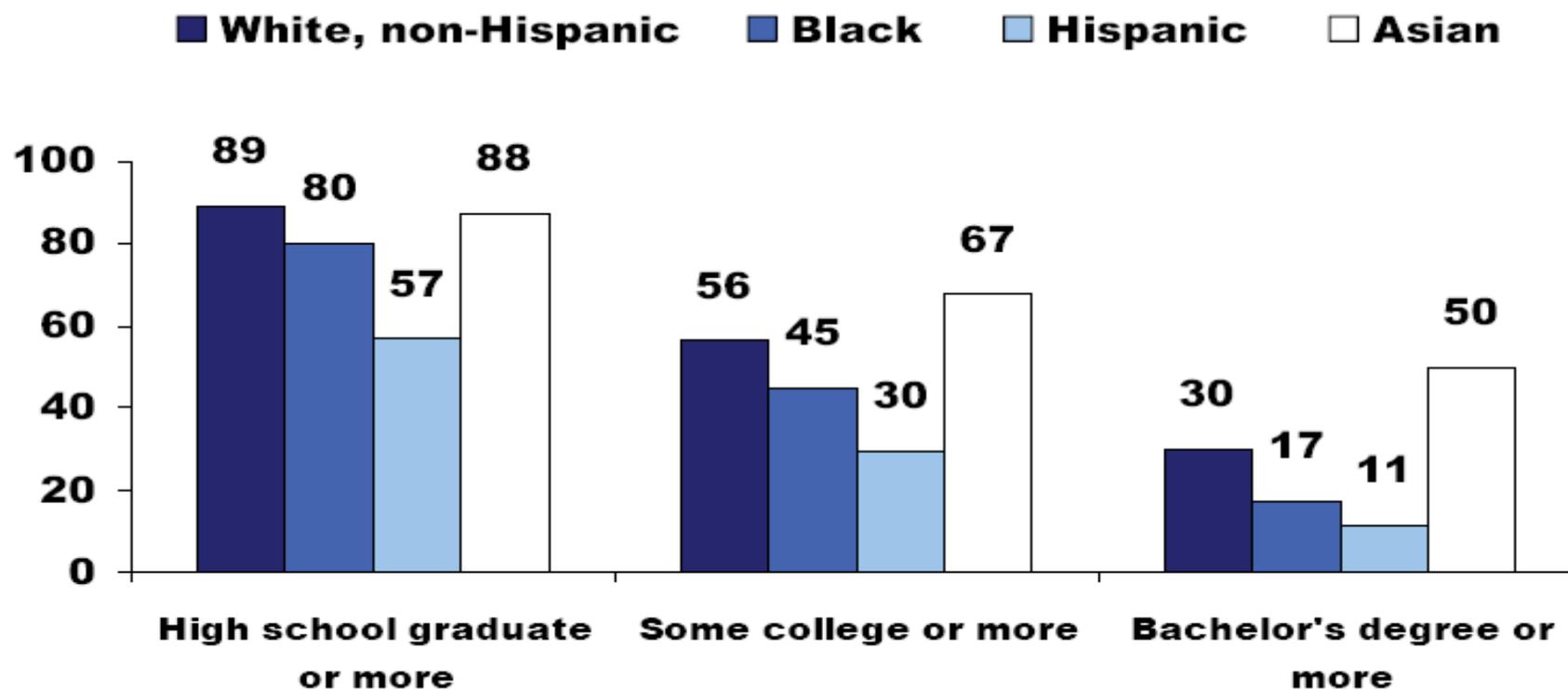
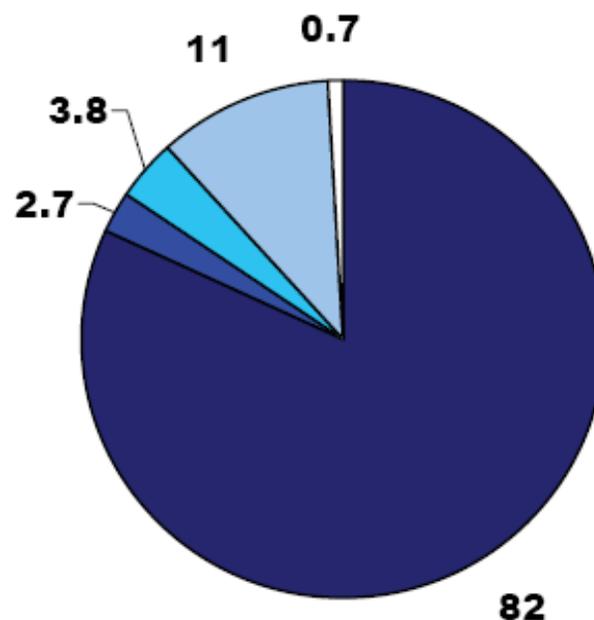




Chart 2-6. Nearly one-sixth of the U.S. population speaks a language other than English at home.

Percentage of population age 5 and older by language spoken at home, 2000

- English Only
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Other Indo-European
- Spanish
- Other





To improve individual health literacy will require that we look
beyond the individual



Understanding Health “From Cells to Society”

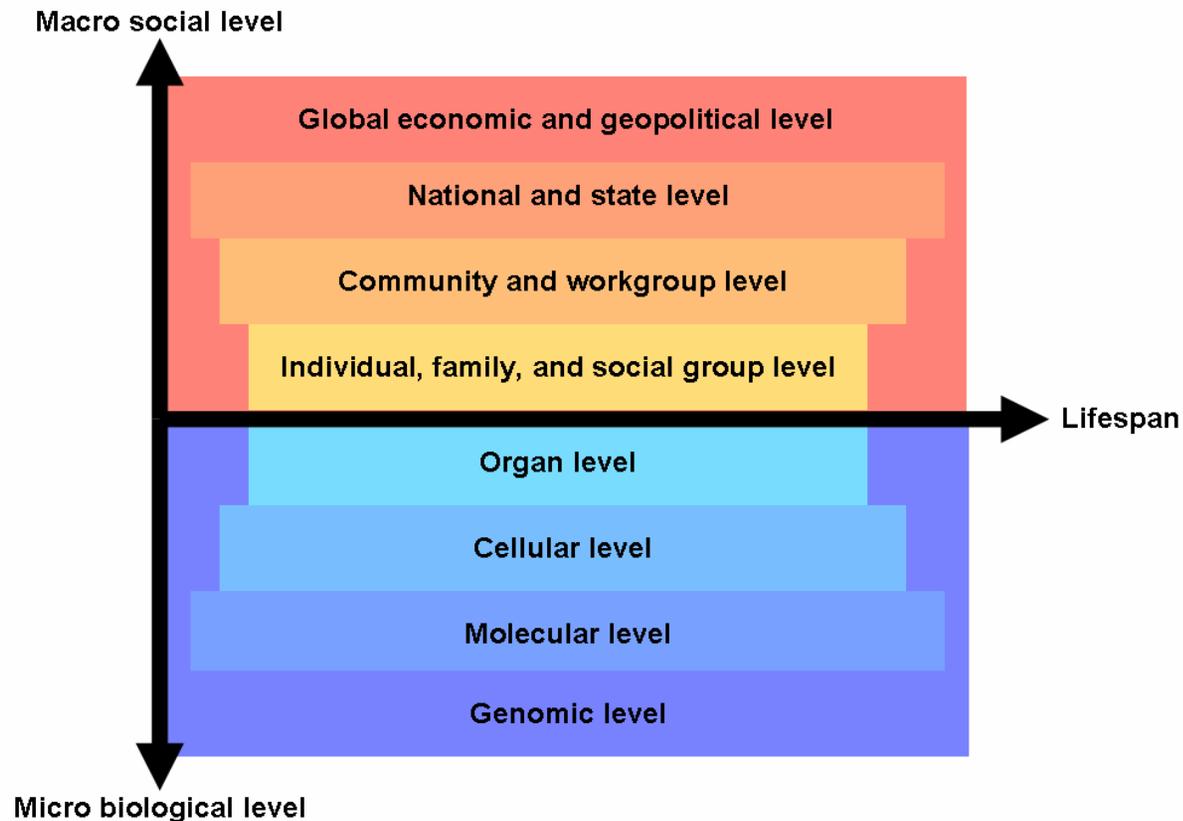


Figure 1. Health as a continuum between biological and social factors across the lifespan. (Adapted from Glass & McAtee, 2006).



Need Both Basic and Applied Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

- Basic research on behavioral and social mechanisms that affect health at the individual and population levels, & bio-behavioral-social interrelationships
- Research on the transfer of basic knowledge into practice that improves health at the individual and population levels



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MEETING FOLLOW-UP

Break-out summaries will be posted on OBSSR website
<http://obssr.od.nih.gov>

Inform direction for future research initiatives on health literacy

