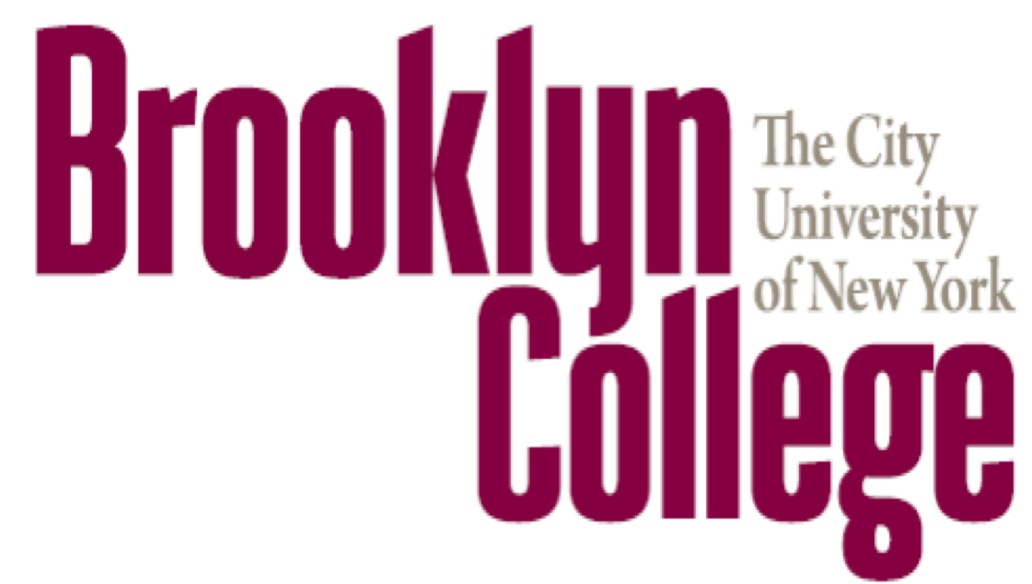


Civic Engagement and Ethnic Identity Development Among Diverse

Undergraduate Students

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Introduction

Civic Engagement

- Research has typically overlooked civic engagement among minority youth (Stepick & Stepick, 2002).
- Due to racial discrepancies in measures of civic engagement, minority youth seem to be less civically engaged (Flanagan & Levine, 2010).
- When youth are involved there are positive developmental outcomes (higher social competence) (Chan et al., 2014).

Role of Ethnic Identity:

- Ethnic identity plays a key role in shaping civic engagement (Stepick & Stepick, 2002).
- Identity formation and civic engagement is particularly important during emerging adulthood (Arnett, 2000).
- When emerging adults feel a strong sense of group connection, they are more likely to feel better about themselves (Umana-Taylor, 2011).

Research Questions

- Is there a relationship between ethnic identity and civic engagement?
- Are emerging adults who have higher levels of civic engagement more socially competent compared to those who have lower levels of civic engagement?
- Do ethnic identity, income, and parental education predict civic engagement in emerging adults?

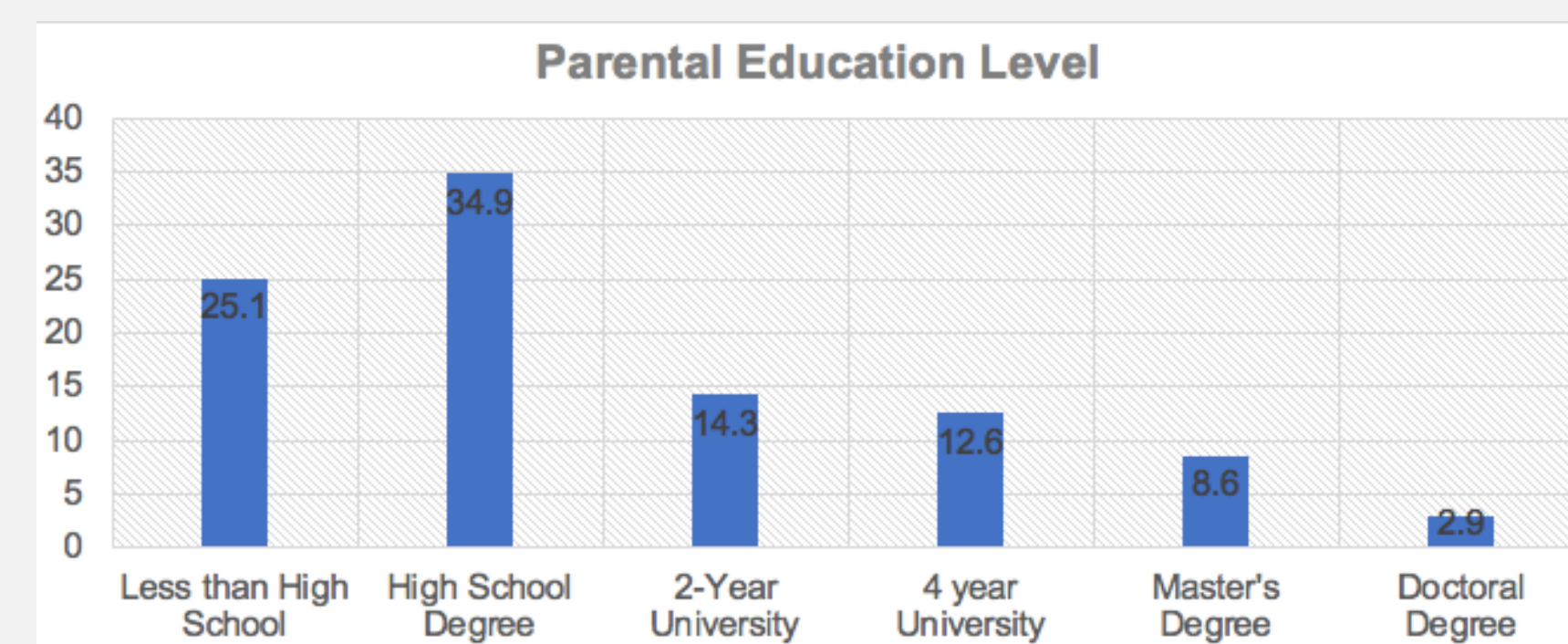
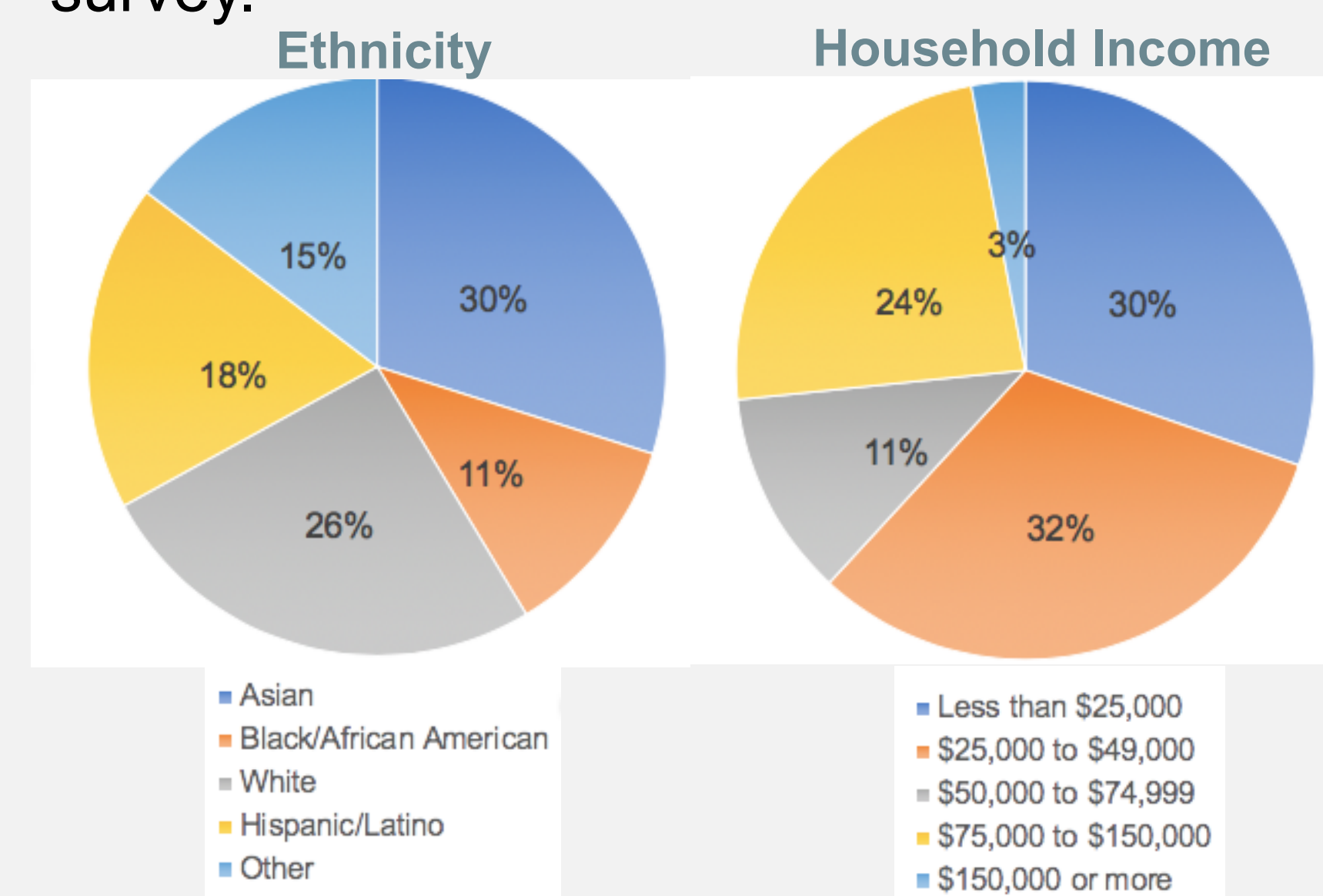
Hypothesis

Emerging adults with higher levels of ethnic pride be more civically engaged and have high levels of social competence compared to emerging adults who have less ethnic pride.

Methods

Sample

- 180 emerging adults (ages 18 to 24) from Brooklyn College were administered an online survey.



Measures

Demographic questions asked about race, gender, income, parental education, and age.

Civic Engagement was measured using the Civic Engagement Scale (Doolittle & Faul, 2013).

- e.g. "I feel responsible for my community."

Ethnic Identity was measured with Multiethnic Identity Measure (Phinney, 1992).

- e.g. "I have spent time trying to find out more about my ethnic group, such as its history, traditions, and customs."

Social Competence Scale is a 9-item scale was used to measure psychological and social adjustment (Lipmann, et al, 2014).

- e.g. "Do you control your anger when you have a disagreement with a friend?"

Results

Descriptives

Table 1: Relationship between variables

	EI	SC	SE	CE
Ethnic Identity	1			
Social Competence	.324*	1		
Self-Esteem	.378*	.244*	1	
Civic Engagement	.468*	.336*	.270*	1

*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

- Having a strong sense of ethnic identity is highly associated with higher civic engagement ($r=.468, p<0.01$), and higher social competence ($r=.324, p<0.01$)

Main Findings

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis of the Effect of Ethnic Identity, Parental Education, and Income on Civic Engagement

Variable	B	SE B	β	p
Civic Engagement	2.95	.634		.00
Ethnic Identity	.405	.062	.493	.00
Parental Education	-.077	.106	-.059	.472
Income	-.537	.160	-.403	.001

Notes* $R^2 = .45$ ($P = .001$)

- Emerging adults who had strong ethnic identity had higher civic engagement after controlling for income and parental education ($F(11, 125) = 9.30, p = 0.00$) with an R^2 of 0.45).

Table 3: ANOVA results using income as criterion

Variable	SS	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Between Groups	6.027	7	.861	2.255	.033
Within Groups	59.950	157	.382		
Total	65.977	164			

- Emerging adults who reported the lowest income had the highest levels of civic engagement scores ($F(7, 157) = 2.25, p = 0.033$)
- Emerging adults with lowest income also reported higher levels of social competence compared to emerging adults who reported higher income, $F(4, 132) = 3.02, p = 0.20$.

Results Cont'd

Table 4: ANOVA results using income as criterion

Variable	SS	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Between Groups	11.445	16	.715	1.991	.016
Within Groups	57.834	161	.359		
Total	69.278	177			

- Being civically engaged is linked to higher levels of social competence, $F(16, 161) = 1.99, p = 0.016$.

Discussion & Implications

- These new finding provides an insight into the experiences of diverse group of undergraduate students by showing that when given access, regardless of having a low income, youth become civically engaged.
- These results also confirm the previous finding on how when youth are involved positive developmental outcomes occur (higher social competence) (Chen et al., 2014).
- It is critical to consider larger cultural and sociopolitical forces that shape these developmental processes (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).
- Rethinking and reimagining ways to measure civic engagement is crucial to understanding the experiences of ethnic minorities.
- There is limited research on the experiences of ethnic minority youth (Chan, 2011; Fredricks & Eccles, 2010).
- Further analysis will also investigate whether immigration generational status has an impact on the civic engagement of emerging adults.

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