

POLICYLAB

March 21st, 2024

METHODS CONSIDERATIONS FROM A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF PLASTIC SURGERY APPLICANTS

Anyun Chatterjee, MPH

policylab.chop.edu |  [@PolicyLabCHOP](https://twitter.com/PolicyLabCHOP)



ABOUT ANYUN

Your friendly neighborhood CRC

- Started at PolicyLab in October 2022
- Collects comic books and DVDs
- Did the Rocky Run on a ruptured ACL
- Exceptional spice tolerance



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

How do we protect confidentiality when working with very small populations?

How do we reflect lived experience of research participants while protecting their identities?

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Research question: What are the experiences of minoritized medical students applying to Plastic Surgery Residencies?

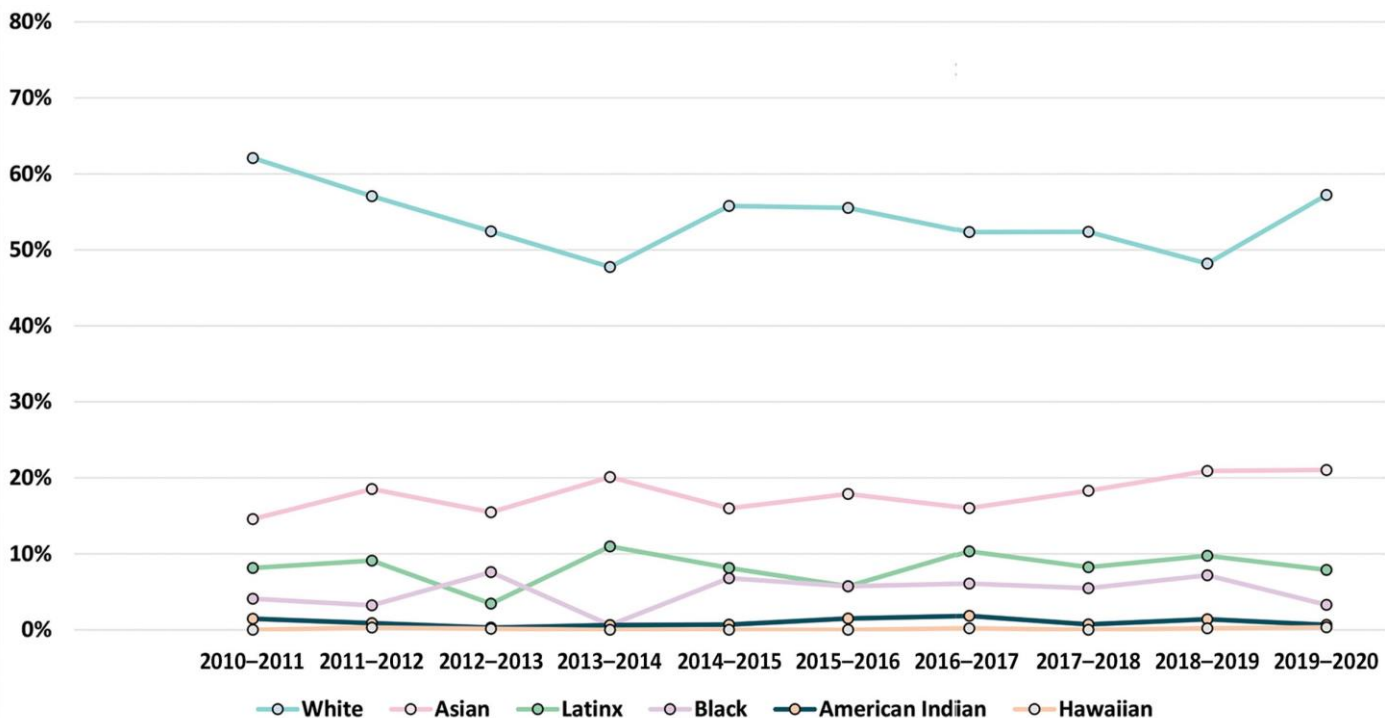
Project design:

Quant: Survey distributed to Plastic Surgery Foundation's listserv

Qual: Semi-structured interviews with subsample of respondents

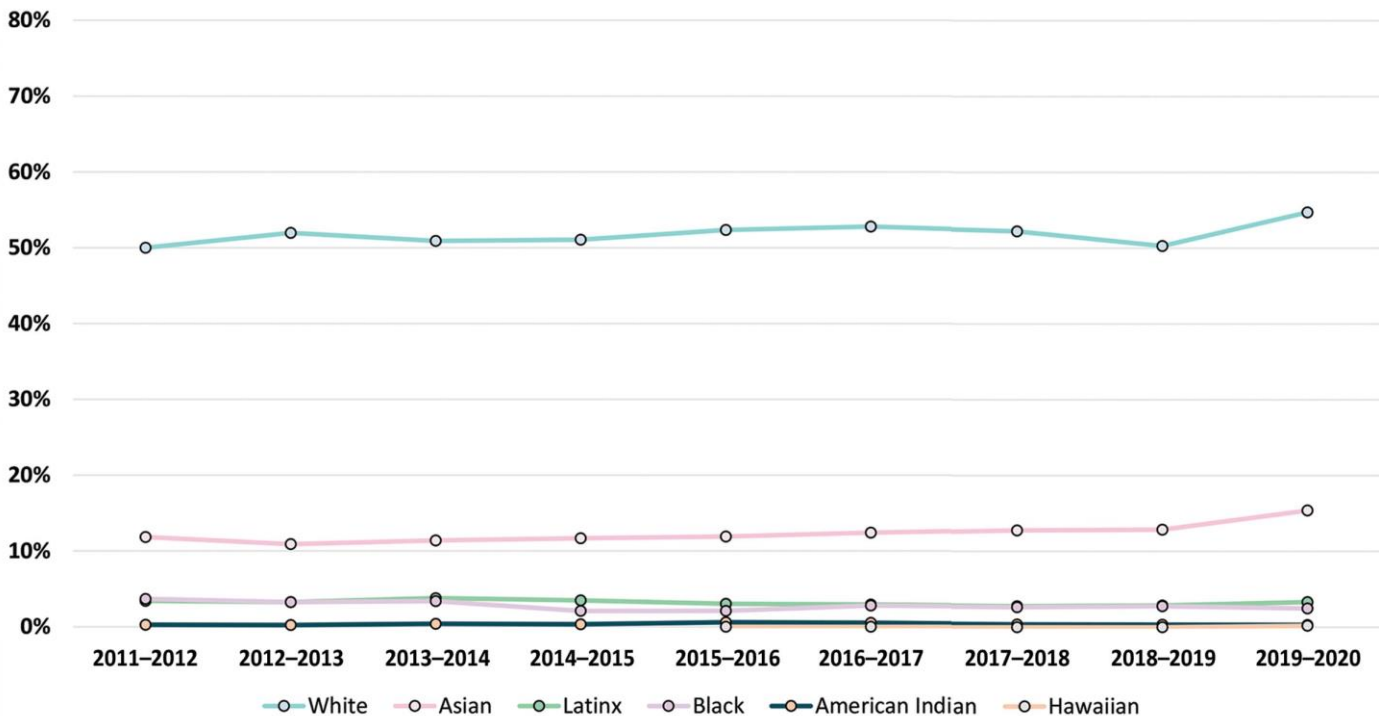
So far, 10 completed interviews (and 1 half-complete) – 3 FGLI, 1 FGLI + URM

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PLASTIC SURGERY APPLICANTS, 2010-2020.



Hernández, J. Andres MD, MBA*; Kloer, Carmen I. BA†; Porras Fimbres, Denisse BS, RD†; Phillips, Brett T. MD, MBA*; Cendales, Linda C. MD*,*. Plastic Surgery Diversity through the Decade: Where We Stand and How We Can Improve. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Global Open 10(2):p e4134, February 2022. | DOI: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000004134

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENTS, 2011 TO 2020.



Hernández, J. Andres MD, MBA*; Kloer, Carmen I. BA†; Porras Fimbres, Denisse BS, RD†; Phillips, Brett T. MD, MBA*; Cendales, Linda C. MD*,*. Plastic Surgery Diversity through the Decade: Where We Stand and How We Can Improve. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Global Open* 10(2):p e4134, February 2022. | DOI: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000004134

“DISPARITIES” IN THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Every year, ~400 med students apply for about ~190 spots

~60% of applicants are White → ~50% of residents are White

~8% of applicants are Black → ~3% of residents are Black

~9% of applicants are Latinx → ~3% of residents are Latinx

Additionally, medicine overall, especially medical school populations have moved closer to 1:1 Male:Female over time

But in plastic surgery, it's about 5:1 Male:Female

CHALLENGES WITH A SMALL + INTERCONNECTED GROUP

The population of applicants all know each other/of each other

There are ethnic and religious minorities that are easily identifiable from their demographics alone

“Minoritized” or “Under-represented” is context dependent – minorities in Plastic Surgery are defined differently than minorities in medicine overall

Even interviewees who do not fall under “URM” or “FGLI” reported demographic marks that minoritized them in the application process

CONSEQUENT METHODOLOGICAL CHANGES

Two years of data collection instead of one

QRC sent gift cards instead of PI's team due to recognizability

Gave participants opportunity to go “off the record” or call back

Clarified if there were specific demographic marks participants didn't want us to report

Examining what we actually mean by URM



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?



PolicyLab

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
3401 Civic Center Boulevard
Roberts Center, 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

chatterjea@chop.edu

policylab.chop.edu

 *[@PolicyLabCHOP](https://twitter.com/PolicyLabCHOP)*