How have researchers studied multiracial populations? A Content and Methodological Review of 20 years of research

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Goals of study

1. “Determine which multiracial subpopulations are represented by the current body of literature, including descriptions of their racial-ethnic subgroups, age range, gender and geography”

2. “Describe recruitment methods and research designs used to study multiracial populations”

3. “Locate which content areas are most and least studied”
Criteria for study

1. “One of key search terms was in the title or abstract of the article”

2. “The primary participant population was multiracial (e.g., studies focusing on community perceptions of mixed-race people or parents of mixed-race children were excluded)”

3. “Research questions probed experiences, identification, identity processes, educational or psychosocial/health outcomes of persons of mixed-racial-ethnic background”
Procedure

- Coding scheme was developed after reading the articles to see what were common content categories which were:
  - 1. Types of data sets and study design
  - 2. Measurement of racial-ethnic identification
  - 3. Multiracial combinations studied
  - 4. Geographic location
  - 5. Recruitment/sampling methods
  - 6. Demographics
  - 7. Constructs and themes
Results

- The most commonly studied multiracial subgroup was Black/White.
- The census has classified Hispanic/Latino as an ethnicity rather than a race because a Hispanic person can be of any race but different studies have different reporting procedures for these individuals.
- There are pros and cons to clumping all multiracial identities into one from a psychological research standpoint.
- There needs to be a better system for reporting a multiracial identity and understanding the differences between multiracial identities.