Racial Disparities in Educational Mobility and Life Satisfaction: Insights from ELSA-Brazil

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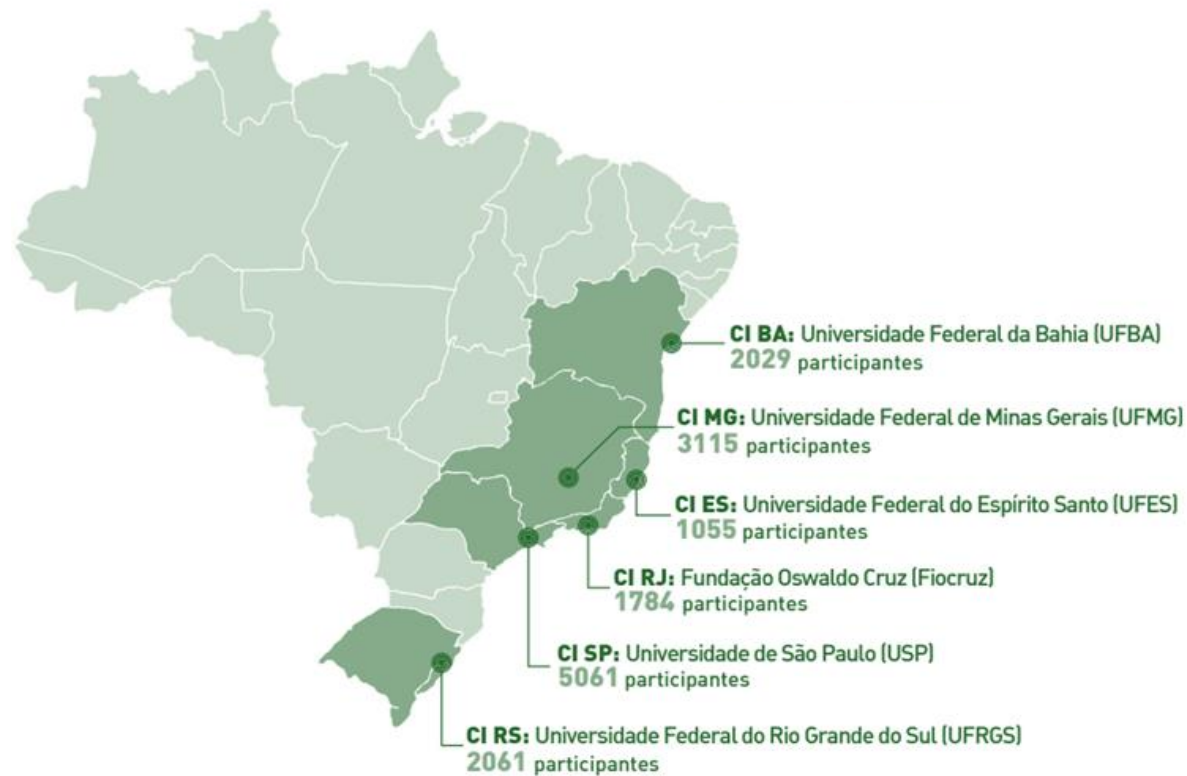WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY 2024

BACKGROUND

- Social mobility is an important determinant of health;

- Inconsistency across studies regarding the effect of social mobility on levels of life satisfaction;

- Incipient investigation of the difference in this relationship by racial groups;

OBJECTIVES

- To investigate the association between intergenerational educational mobility with life satisfaction and average per capita income in Brazilian adults;

- To verify whether this associations differs according to race/color.

METHODS

Study type and population

CI BA: Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA)
2029 participantes

CI MG: Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)
3115 participantes

CI ES: Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES)
1055 participantes

CI RJ: Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)
1784 participantes

CI SP: Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
5061 participantes

CI RS: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)
2061 participantes

Source: ELSA-Brasil Archives

- Cross-sectional study;

- 2nd wave of the ELSA-Brasil Study (2012 – 2014);

- 12,987 participants;

METHODS

Study variables

Response variables:
- Life satisfaction assessed by the Satisfaction With Life Scale

- Average family per capita income

5 statments

strongly disagree

strongly agree

Total score ranged from 5 to 35

Scores > 20 = satisfied

Scores ≤ 20 = dissatisfied

METHODS

Study variables

Explanatory variable: Education intergeneration social mobility;

Effect modifier variable: race/color;

Covariables: age, sex, marital status and research center.

Maternal education level:
- High: ≥ completed elementary school;
- Low: < completed elementary school;

Participant's current education level:
- High: ≥ completed university degree;
- Low: < completed university degree;

⬇

Stable-low (reference category)
Upward
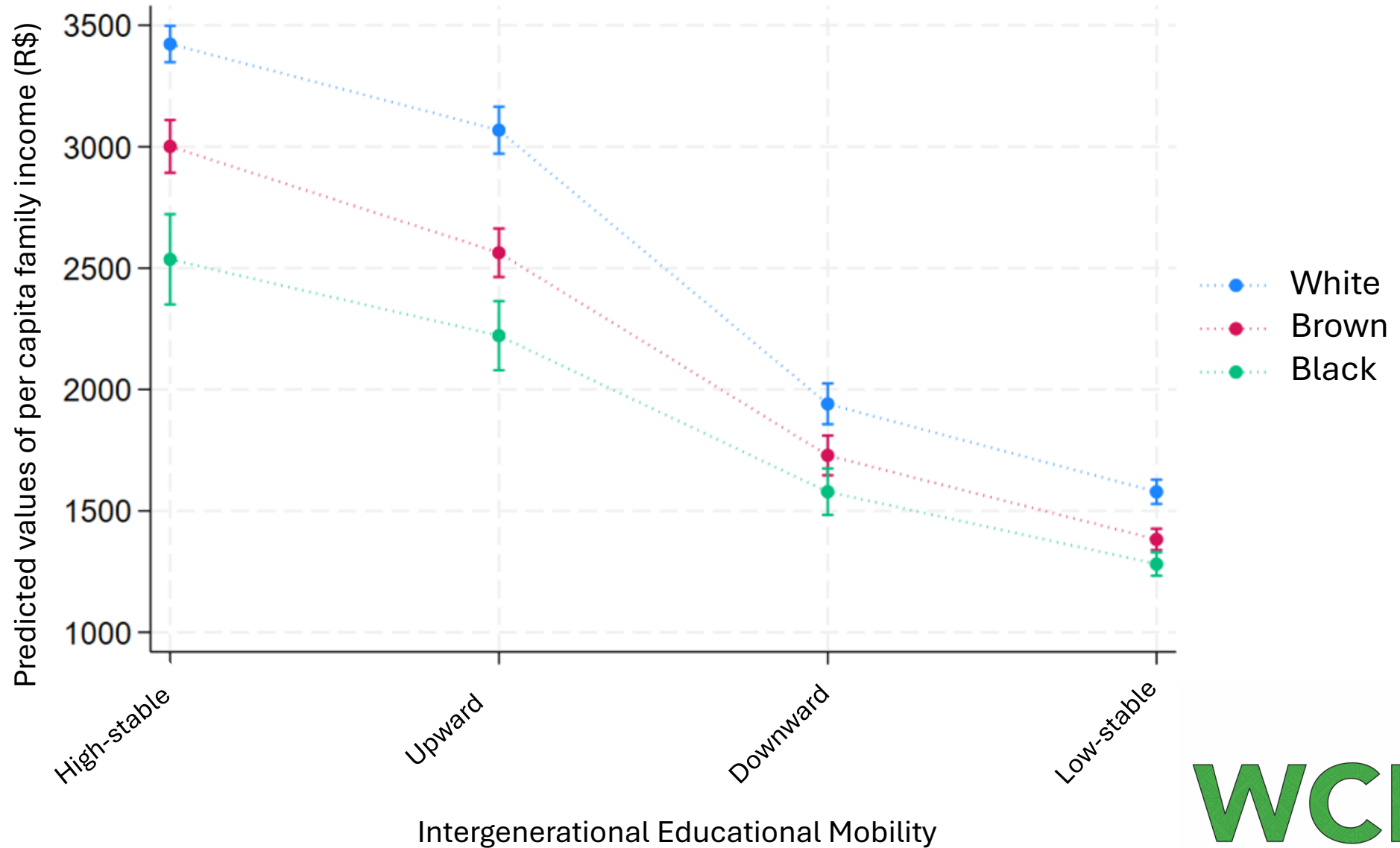Downward
Stable-high

METHODS

Data analyses

Logistic regression models: educational social mobility and life satisfaction

Interaction terms: educational mobility*race/color
educational mobility*gender

Robust regression model: intergenerational education mobility and income

Interaction terms: educational mobility*race/color

RESULTS

RESULTS

Table 3 – Association between intergenerational educational mobility and life dissatisfaction according to race/color. Longitudinal Study of Adult Health (ELSA-Brasil), 2012-2014.

Race/color	Educational Mobility	Crude Model		Adjusted Model[1]	
		OR (CI95%)	p-value	OR (CI95%)	p-value
White	Low-stable	Ref		Ref	
	Downward	1.32 (1.01-1.72)	0,042	1.26 (0.96-1.65)	0,091
	Upward	0.67 (0.53-0.84)	0,001	0.68 (0.53-0.86)	0,001
	High-stable	0.70 (0.57-0.85)	0,000	0.69 (0.56-0.86)	0,001
Brown	Low-stable	Ref		Ref	
	Downward	1.27 (0.96-1.68)	0,097	1.09 (0.81- 1.46)	0,520
	Upward	0.97 (0.75 -1.26)	0,830	0.76 (0.57-1.00)	0,040
	High-stable	0.96 (0.74-1.24)	0,750	0.71 (0.54-0.95)	0,017
Black	Low-stable	Ref		Ref	
	Downward	1.16 (0.82 -1.64)	0,406	0.98 (0.69- 1.40)	0,855
	Upward	0.90 (0.63-1.29)	0,579	0.77 (0.53-1.11)	0,119
	High-stable	1.23 (0.84-1.80)	0,282	0.96 (0.64-1.44)	0,808

[1] Model adjusted for sex, age, marital status, and research center.

CONCLUSION

- The gains in education observed in upward educational mobility were associated with lower chances of life dissatisfaction only among Whites.

- Our findings align with the marginalization-related diminished returns theory, which demonstrates weaker health and well-being effects of socioeconomic improvement in Blacks and other socially marginalized groups compared to Whites;