

The Joint Influence of Gender and Race on the Marital Status-Health Association

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LOCATION HERE | MAY 12, 2009

- 1) Marriage improves the mental health of men and women**
 - 2) Marriage is not as closely linked to the mental health of black as white women and men**
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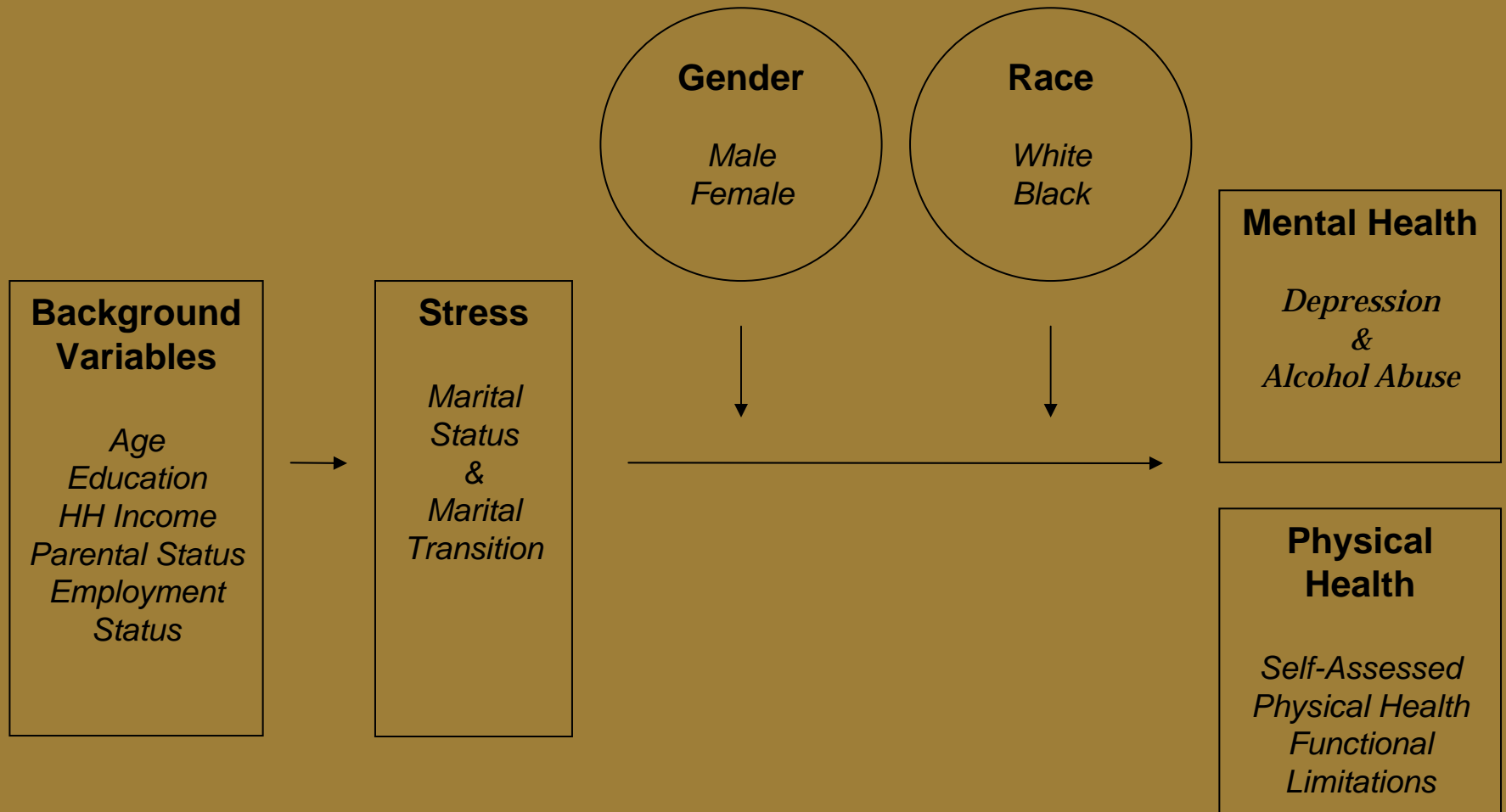
- **Lack of stigma associated with non-marital cohabitation and out-of-wedlock childbearing**
 - **High rates of both female employment and male unemployment**
 - **Economic hardship and disadvantage**
 - **Low marital quality**
 - **Availability of supportive extended family**
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- **African American men and women have higher rates of physical health problems than white women and men**
 - **African American men and women have lower rates of psychiatric disorders and (depending on the measure) report fewer symptoms of depression and substance abuse than white women and men**
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- 1) Marriage improves the physical health of men and women**
 - 2) Marriage is as (and possibly more) closely linked to the physical health of black as white women and men**
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Marriage isn't less important for African American than white men's and women's well-being but they tend to respond to marital status and marital transitions with physical (i.e., somatic) rather than with mental (i.e., emotional) health problems

Conceptual Model of Gender and Race Differences in the Marital Status-Health Relationship



Research on this topic is important:

- 1) Results will advance knowledge about the different ways marriage affects the well-being of different social groups**
 - 2) Results could inform on-going debates about the desirability of marriage promotion policies**
 - 3) Results could provide insight into the race paradox in health**
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Thanks!

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