


Church-based Negative Interactions among Older Adults



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Objectives

- ❑ To present background & significance of research on negative interaction in religious settings.
- ❑ To present study.
- ❑ To summarize findings and offer future research directions.

Background & Significance

- ❑ Religious individuals exhibit higher levels of social support than less religious individuals.
- ❑ Church support is positively related to health outcomes.
- ❑ Impact of religion on health may be explained, in part, by social relationships that flourish in church settings.

Sources: Bradley, D. (1995). Religious involvement and social resources: Evidence from the data set "Americans' Changing Lives." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 34, 259-267; Chatters, Taylor, Lincoln, & Schroepfer, T. (2002). Patterns of informal support from family and church members among African Americans. *Journal of Black Studies*, 33, 66-85; Ellison, C. G. & George, L. (1994). Religious involvement, social ties, and social support in a southeastern community. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 33, 46-61; Ellison, C. G. & Levin, J. S. (1998). The religion-health connection: Evidence, theory, and future directions. *Health Education & Behavior*, 25, 700-720; Levin, J. S. (1994). *Religion in aging and health: Theoretical foundations and methodological frontiers*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Background & Significance

- Although church members provide support, there are also consequences to religious involvement.
 - Psychological distress
 - Poor psychological well-being
 - Low self-esteem
 - Anxiety

Sources: Krause, N., Ellison, C., & Wulff, K. (1998). Church-based emotional support, negative interaction, and psychological well-being. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 37, 725-741; Pargament, K. I., Silverman, W. H., Johnson, S. M., Echemendia, R. J., Snyder, S. (1983). The psychosocial climate of religious congregations. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 11, 351-381; Pargament, K. I., Zinnbauer, B. J., Scott, A. B., Butler, E. M., Zerwin, J., & Stanik, P. (1998). Red flags and religious coping: Identifying some religious warning signs among people in crisis." *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 54, 77-79).

“So What?”

- ❑ Religion becomes more salient with age.
- ❑ Social ties in the church may be an especially critical source of support for older adults.
- ❑ Negative interactions in religious settings are more detrimental to health than social support is beneficial.

Limitations of Current Research

- ❑ Research on negative interactions in religious settings has not kept pace with the secular research.
- ❑ Available research may not be generalizable to racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- ❑ Current research assumes homogeneity across diverse populations.

Goals of Current Study

- To empirically identify demographic and religion profiles of church-based negative interactions among a nationally representative sample of African American, Caribbean Black and non-Hispanic White older adults.

Analytic Approach

- Latent Class Analysis
- Designed to describe distinct subpopulations (classes) of people.
 - Models do not assume that everyone in the population has the same profile.
 - Assumes that there are important demographic, cultural and social distinctions within racial and ethnic groups that influence social support profiles.
- *Mplus* 4.2, using maximum-likelihood estimation.

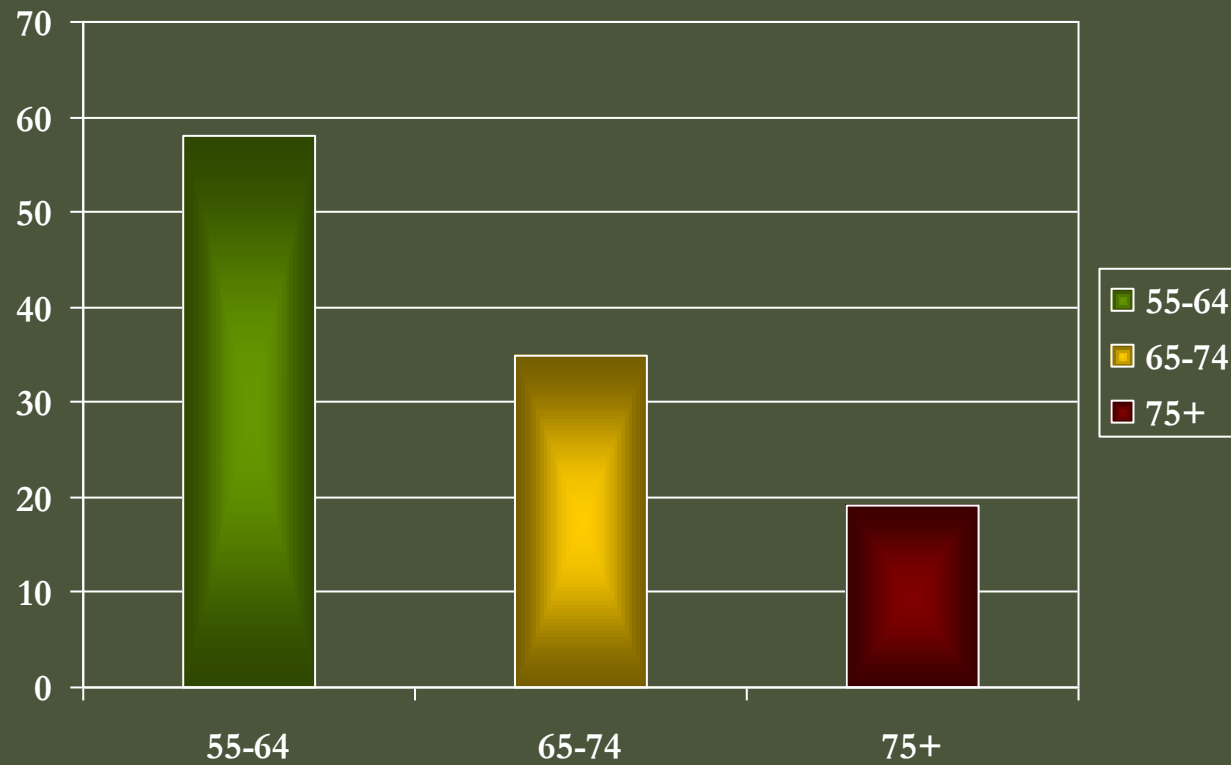
Data

- ❑ The National Survey of American Life (PI: James Jackson)
- ❑ Total sample (N=6,082)
 - 3,570 African Americans
 - 1,621 Blacks of Caribbean descent
 - 891 non-Hispanic Whites
- ❑ Current sample (N=1,439)
 - 837 African Americans
 - 304 Caribbean Blacks
 - 298 non-Hispanic Whites
 - 55+
- ❑ Analyses were weighted and account for complex survey design characteristics

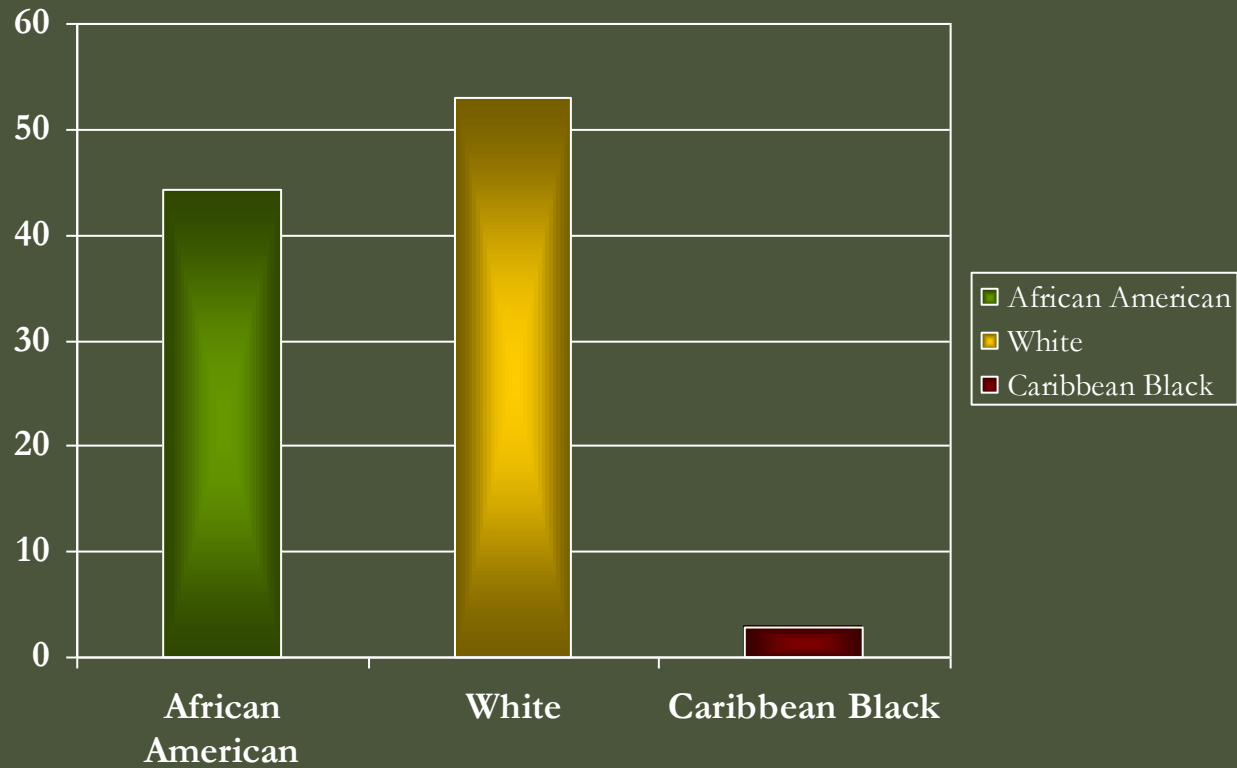
Frequency Distribution



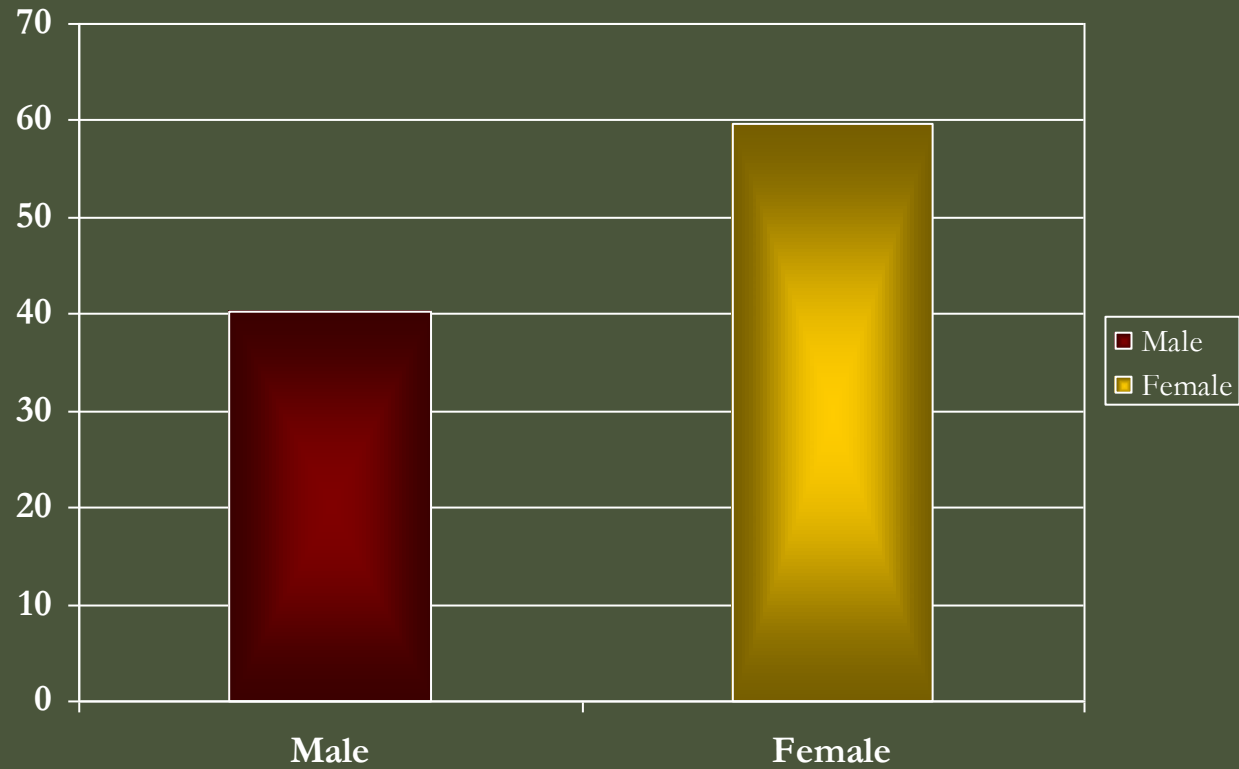
Age



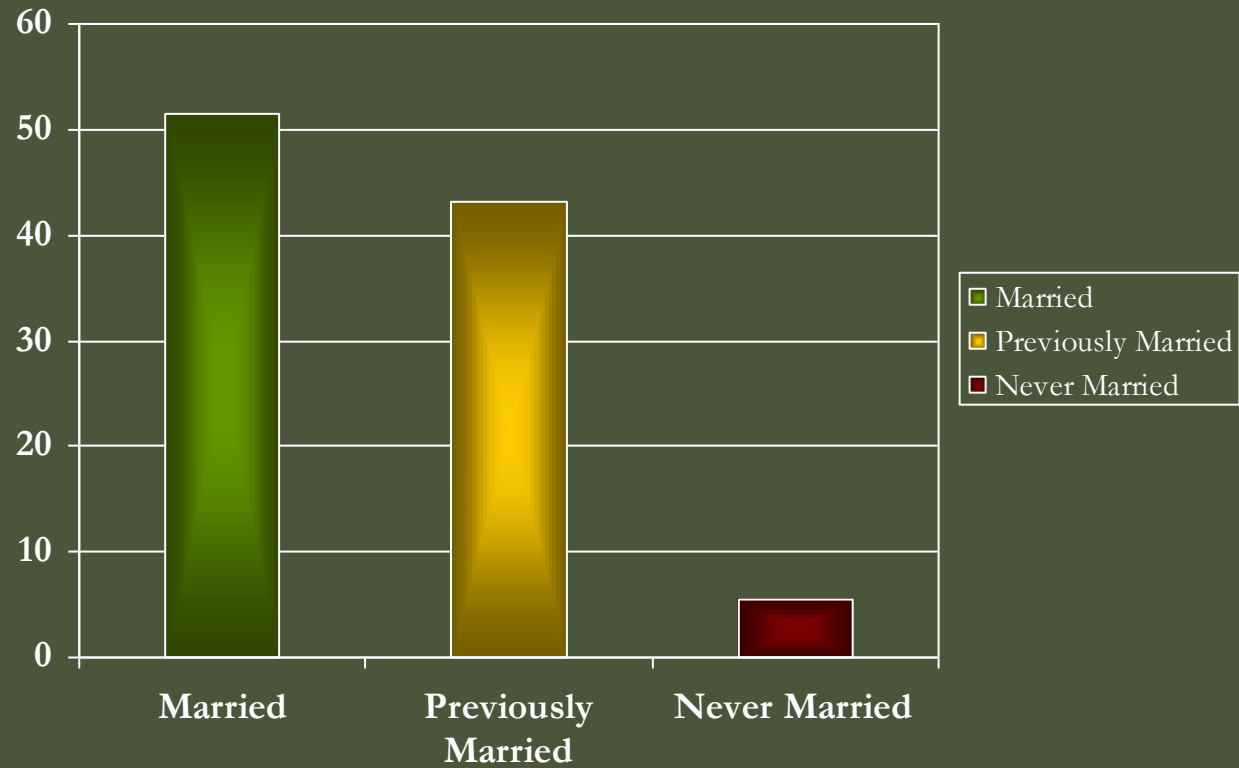
Race



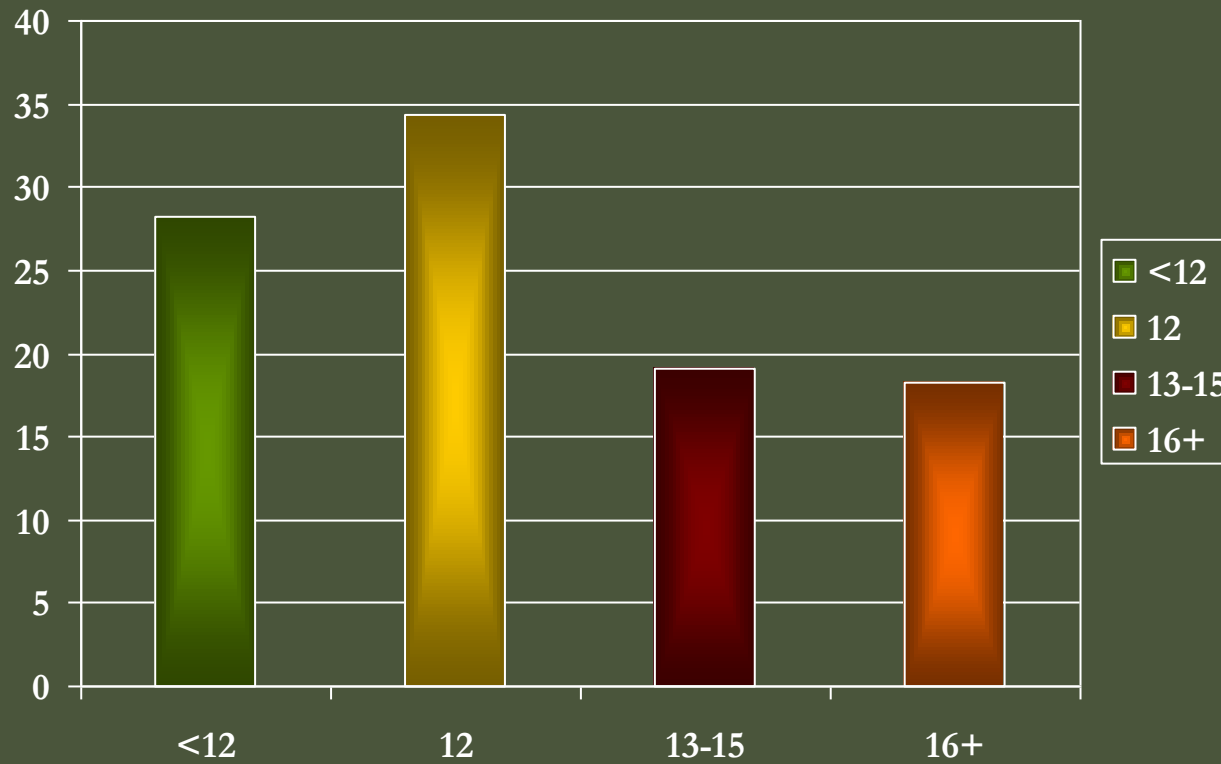
Gender



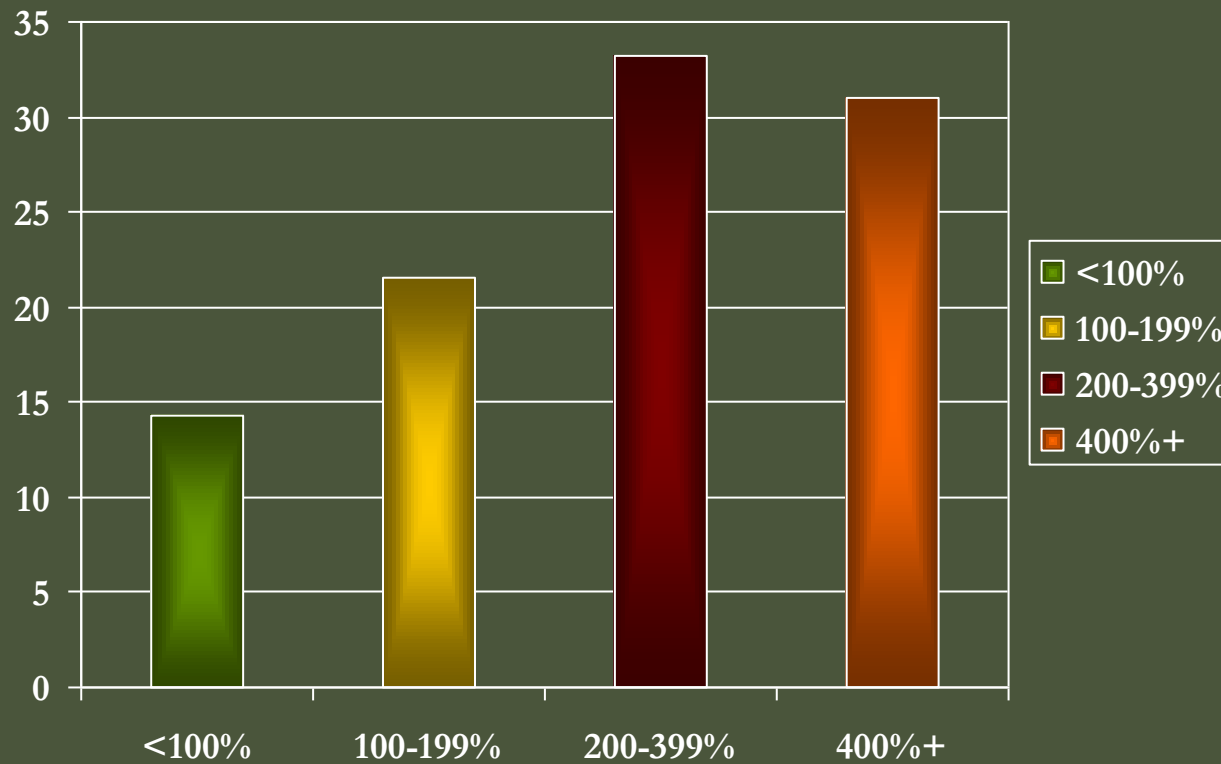
Marital Status



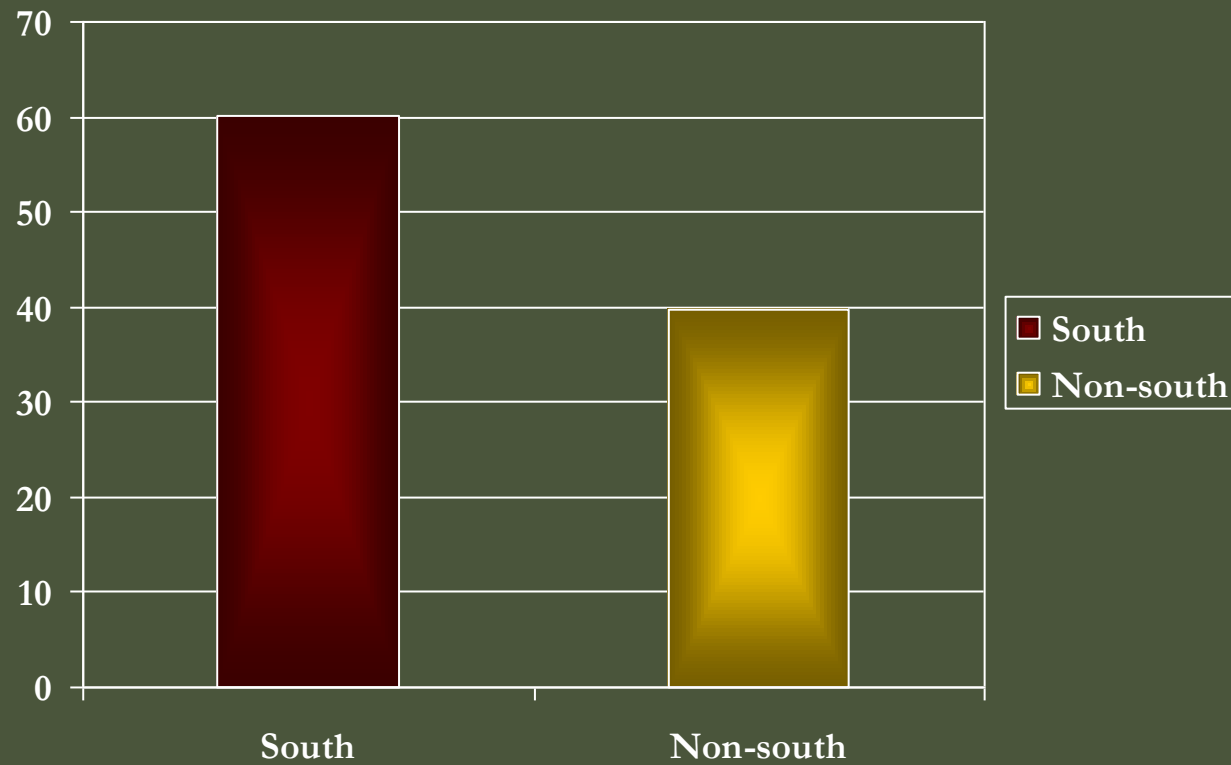
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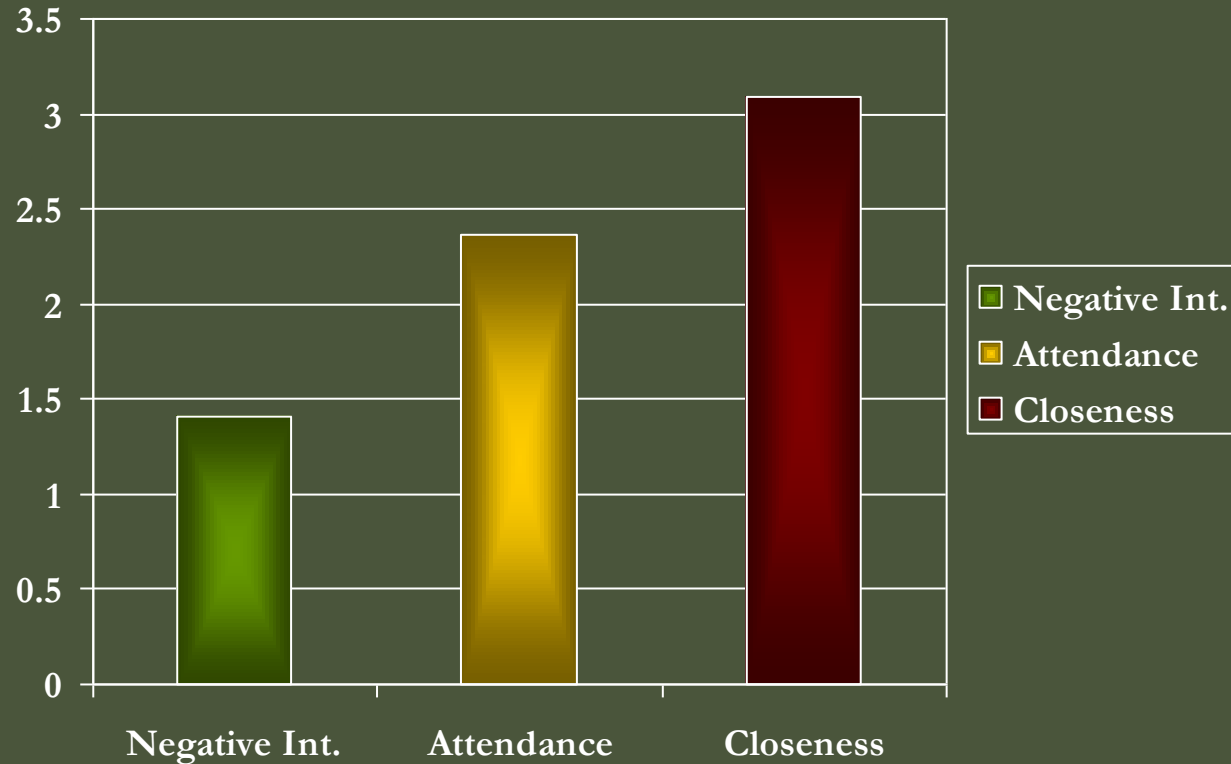
Income



Region



Negative Interaction & Attendance

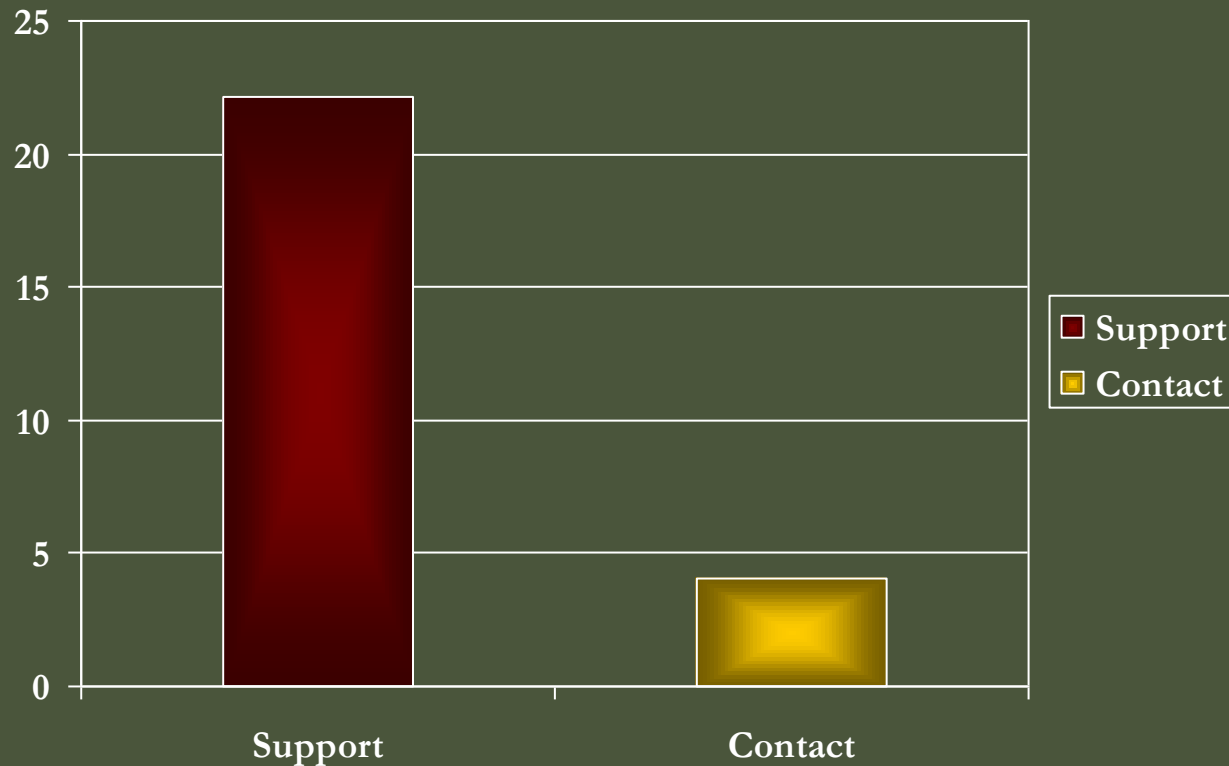


Negative interaction: "How often do the people in your church make too many demands on you?; How often do the people in your church criticize you and the things you do?; How often do the people in your church try to take advantage of you?"

Church attendance: "How often do you usually attend religious services?"

Closeness: "How close are you to the people in your church?"

Church Support & Contact



Church support: "How many people in your church (place of worship) would help you out if you needed help?"

Contact: "How often do you see, write, or talk on the telephone with members of your church (place of worship)?"

Result: Class Differentiation



Multiple Regression Results

Table 1. Coefficients for Effects of Covariates on Church-based Negative Interaction

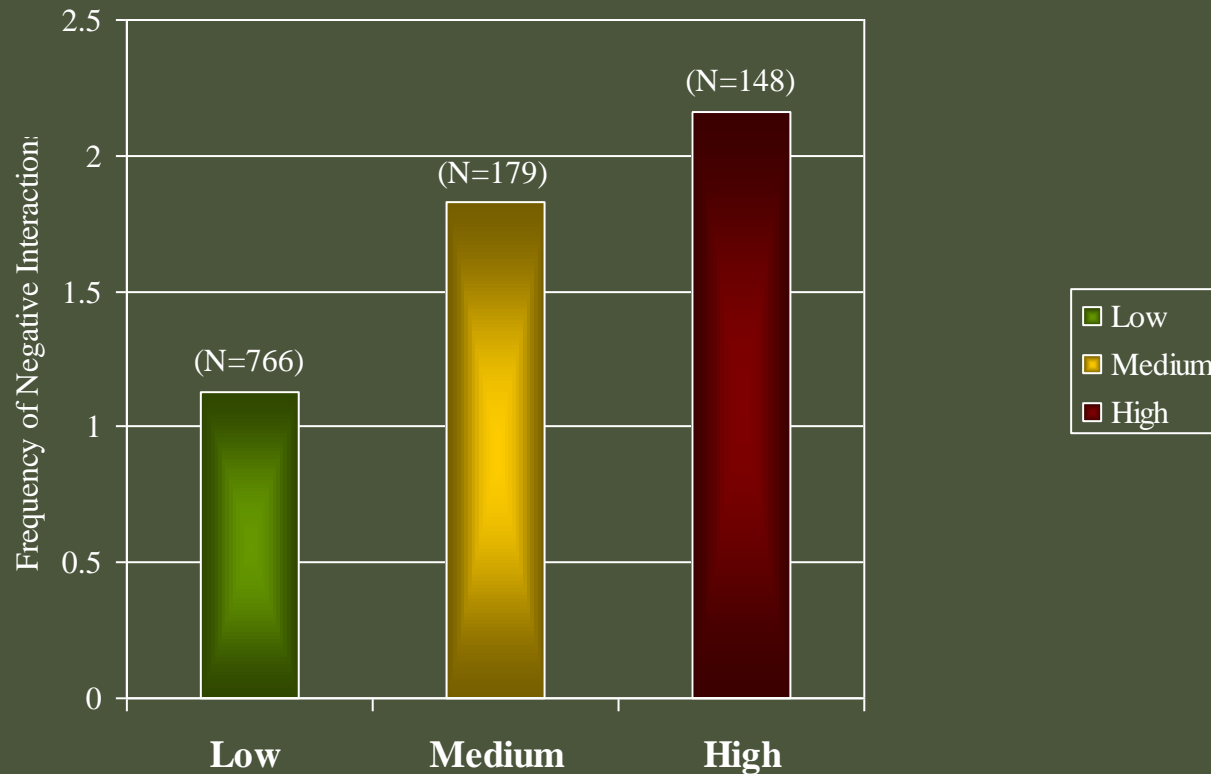
| Variable | Low | | Medium | | High | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| | b | SE | b | SE | b | SE |
| <i>Race (0=African American)</i> | | | | | | |
| Caribbean Black | 0.001 | (0.030) | -0.074 | (0.111) | -0.021 | (0.316) |
| White | -0.031 | (0.019) | -0.501 | (0.065) * | -0.637 | (0.130) *** |
| Age | -0.078 | (0.001) | -0.042 | (0.003) | -0.116 | (0.004) * |
| <i>Gender (0=male)</i> | | | | | | |
| Female | -0.082 | (0.031) | -0.227 | (0.068) * | 0.137 | (0.093) * |
| Education | 0.056 | (0.005) | -0.187 | (0.011) * | -0.149 | (0.019) * |
| <i>Income (0=<100)</i> | | | | | | |
| Poverty (100-199%) | -0.144 | (0.028) * | -0.056 | (0.070) | -0.122 | (0.112) |
| Poverty (200-399%) | -0.130 | (0.042) | -0.079 | (0.073) | 0.132 | (0.170) |
| Poverty (400%+) | -0.004 | (0.049) | -0.136 | (0.115) | 0.395 | (0.150) * |
| <i>Marital status (0=married)</i> | | | | | | |
| Previously married | 0.110 | (0.040) | 0.304 | (0.067) ** | 0.492 | (0.104) *** |
| Never married | 0.133 | (0.077) | 0.586 | (0.123) *** | -0.081 | (0.086) * |
| <i>Region (0=South)</i> | | | | | | |
| Non-south | 0.026 | (0.025) | 0.029 | (0.074) | 0.120 | (0.070) * |
| Church attendance | 0.105 | (0.013) * | -0.124 | (0.032) * | 0.252 | (0.053) * |
| Contact | 0.108 | (0.008) | 0.250 | (0.022) * | -0.037 | (0.031) |
| Church support | 0.139 | (0.001) | 0.194 | (0.002) * | 0.094 | (0.002) |
| Closeness | -0.009 | (0.014) | 0.197 | (0.114) * | 0.321 | (0.039) *** |
| R ² | | 0.114 | | 0.801 | | 0.911 |

Note: * p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001.

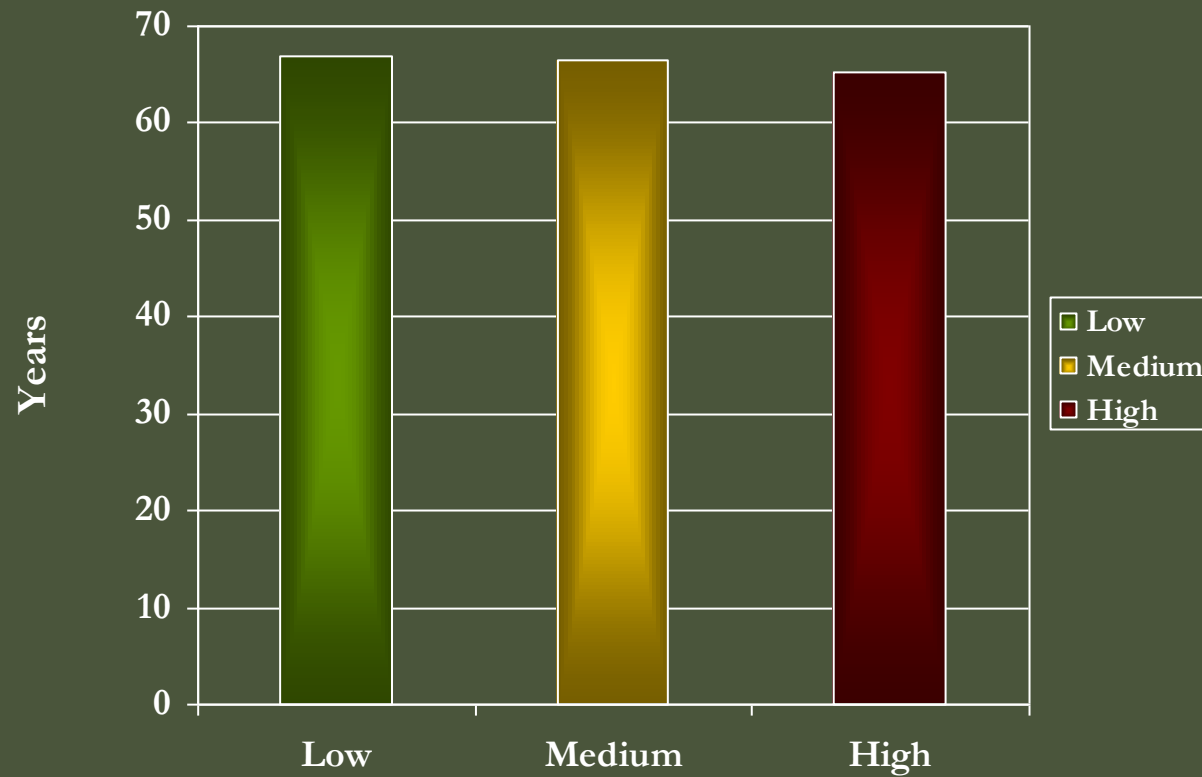
Results: Latent Class Profiles



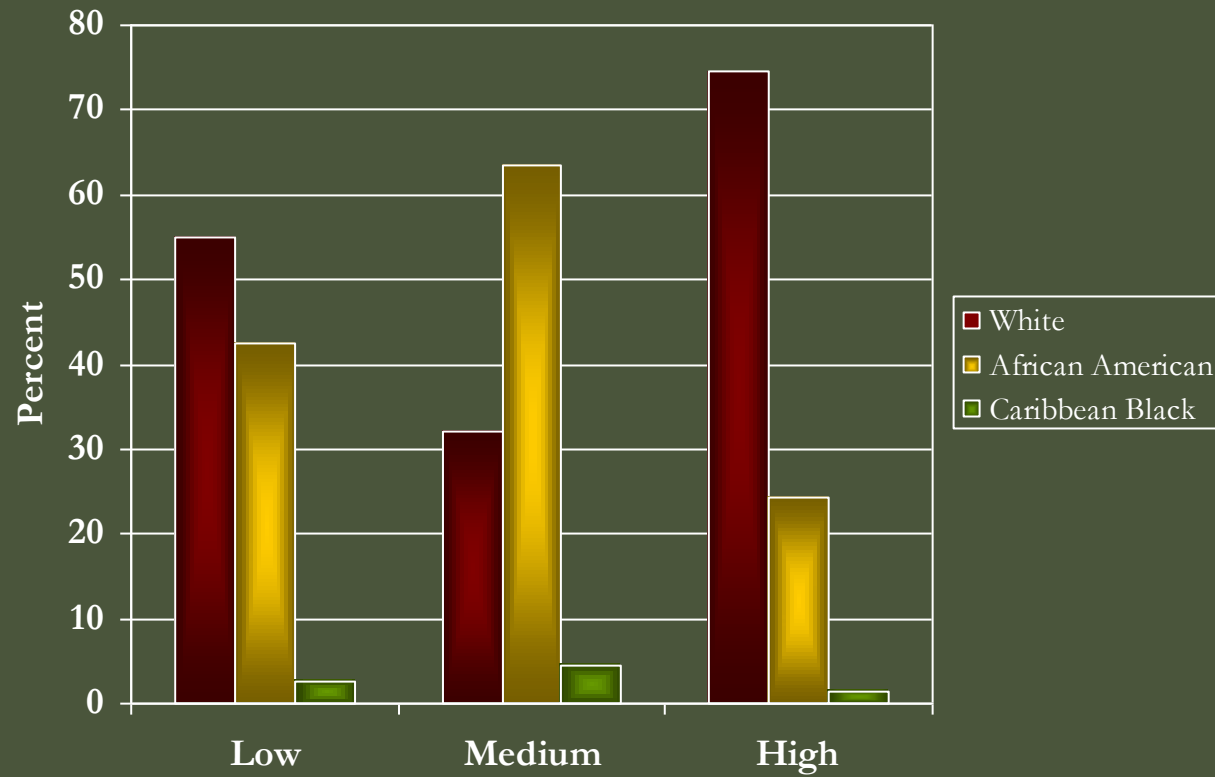
Church-based Negative Interactions



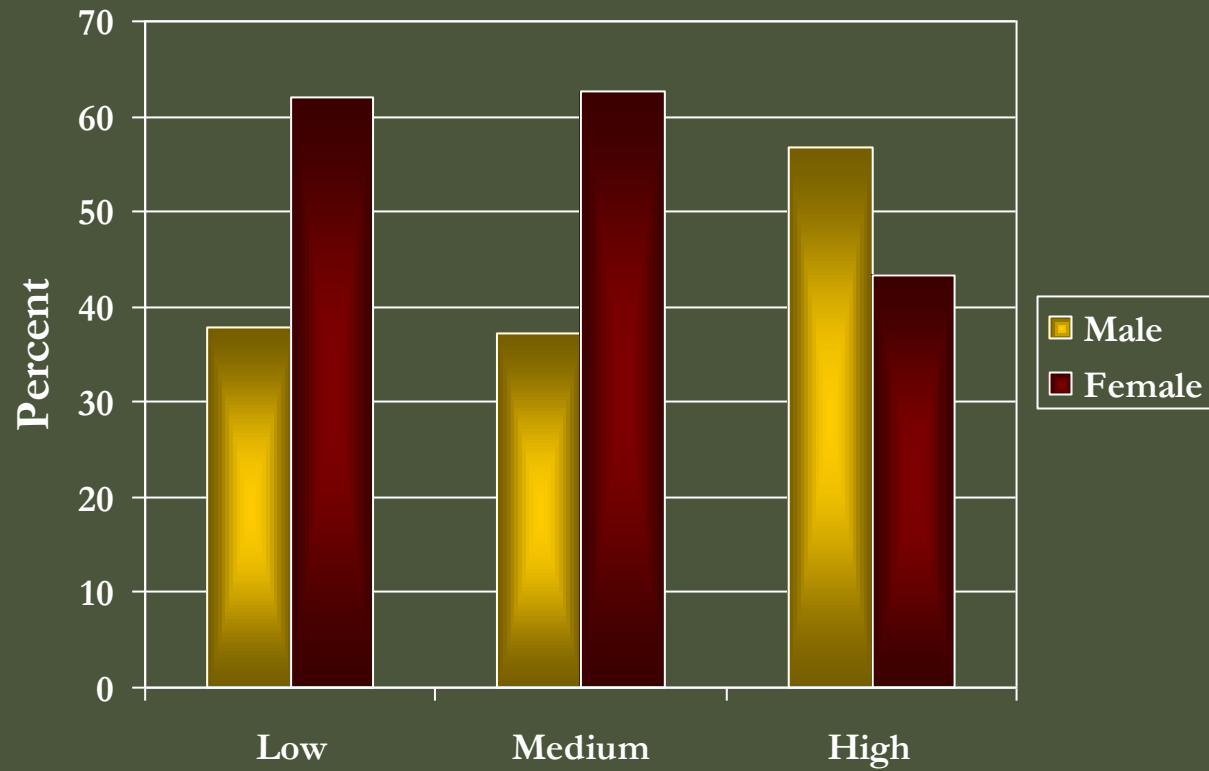
Age



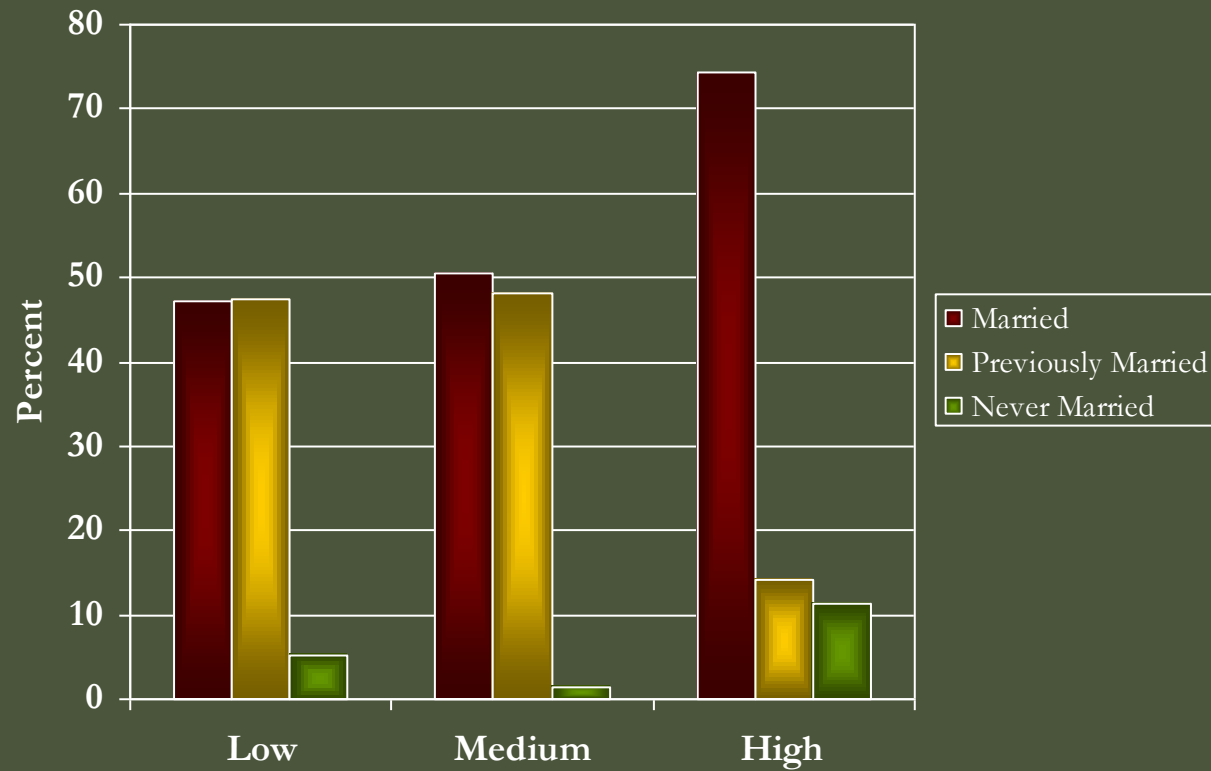
Race



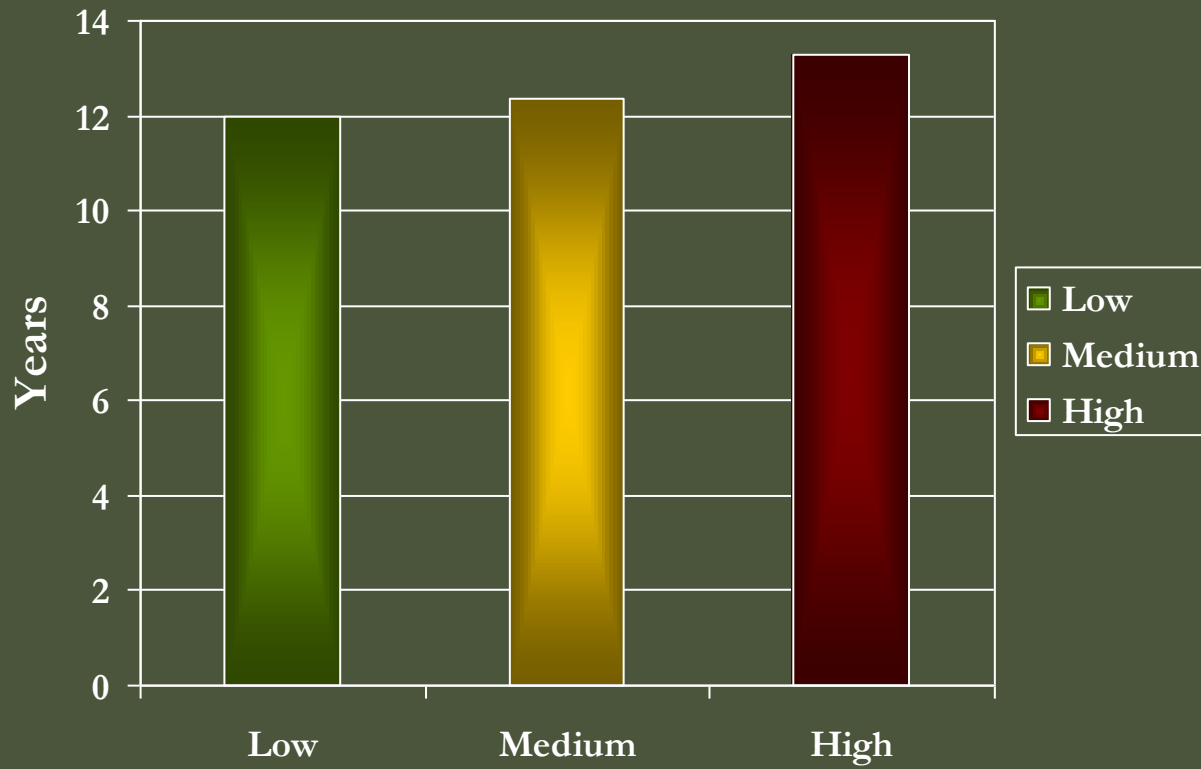
Gender



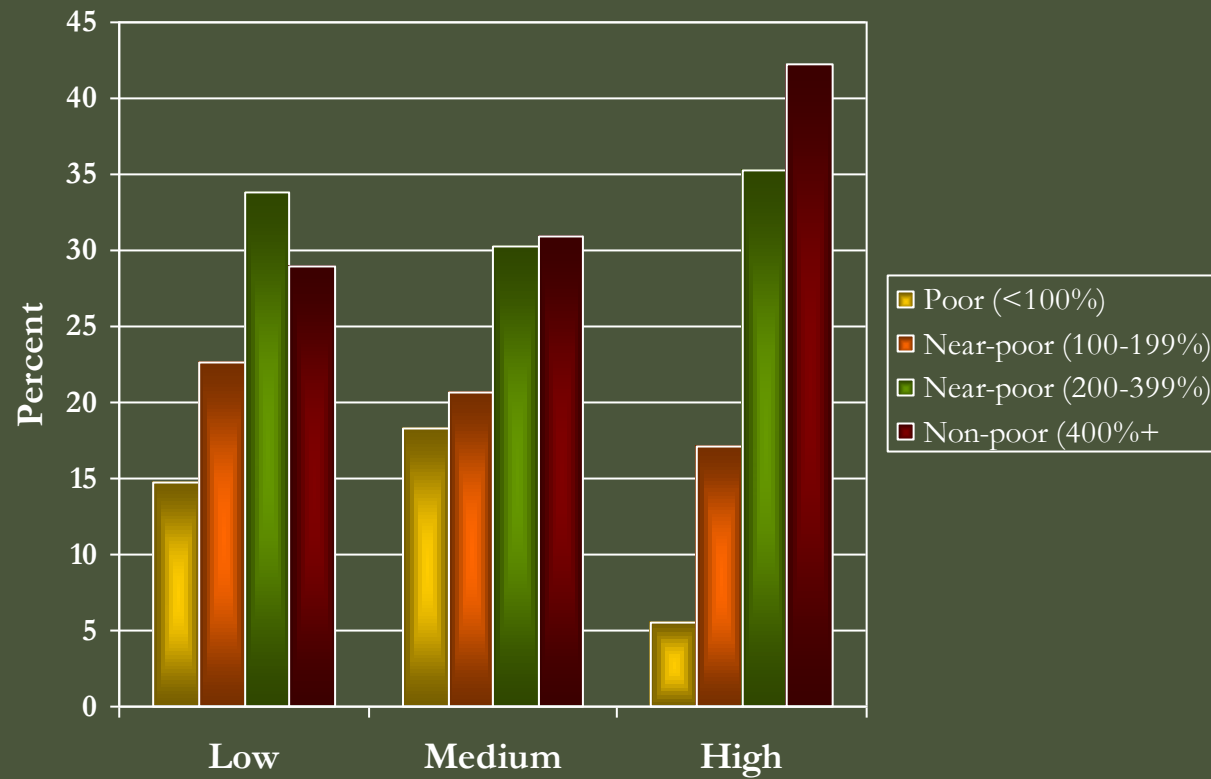
Marital Status



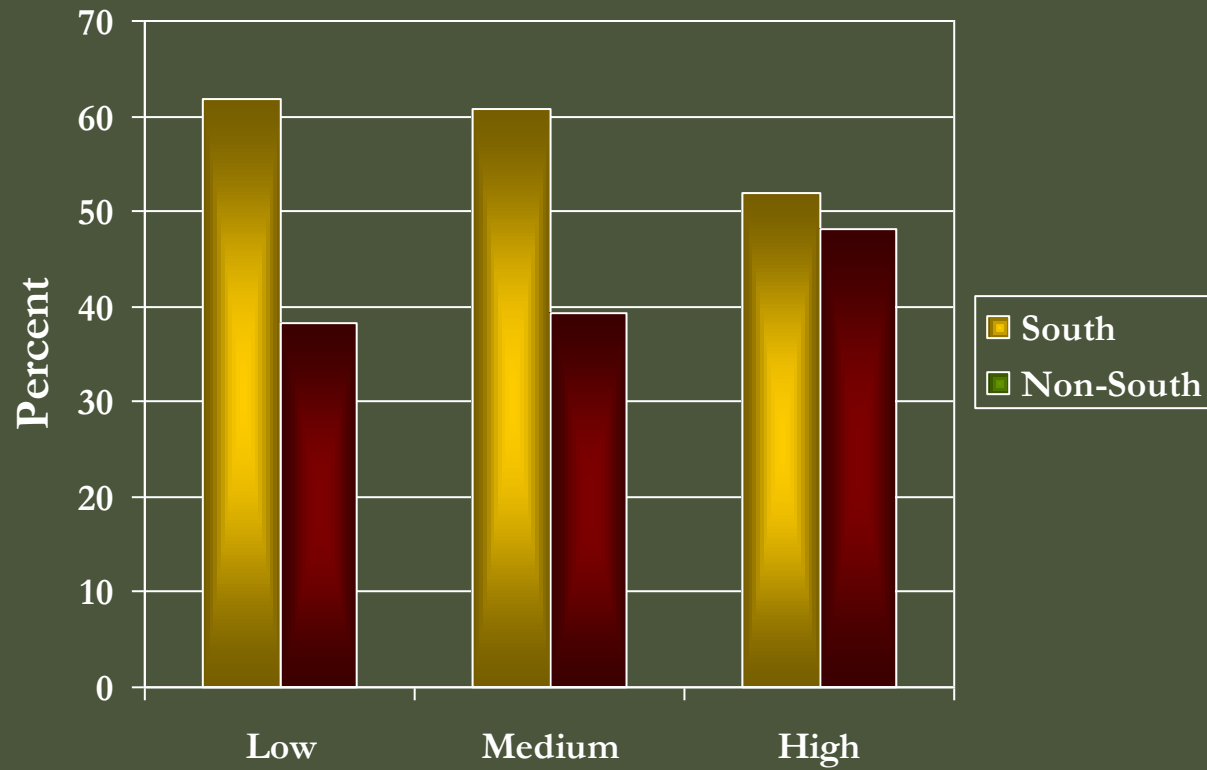
Education



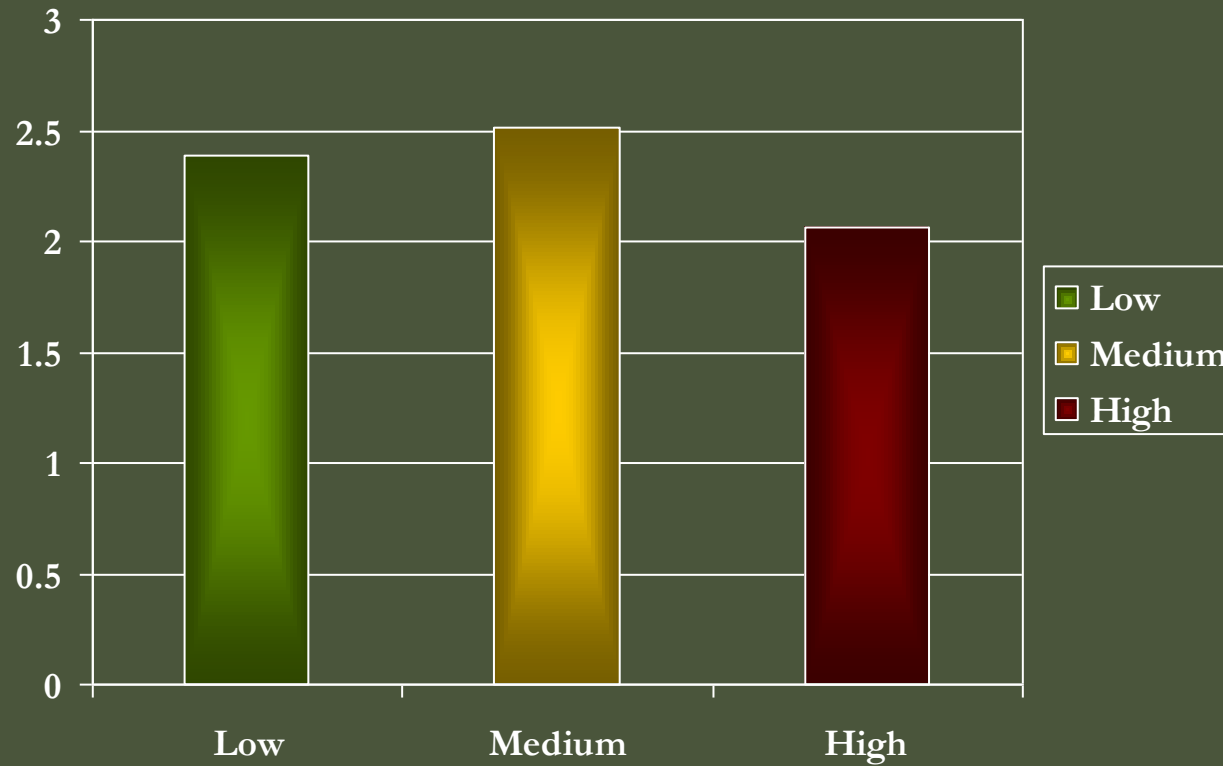
Income



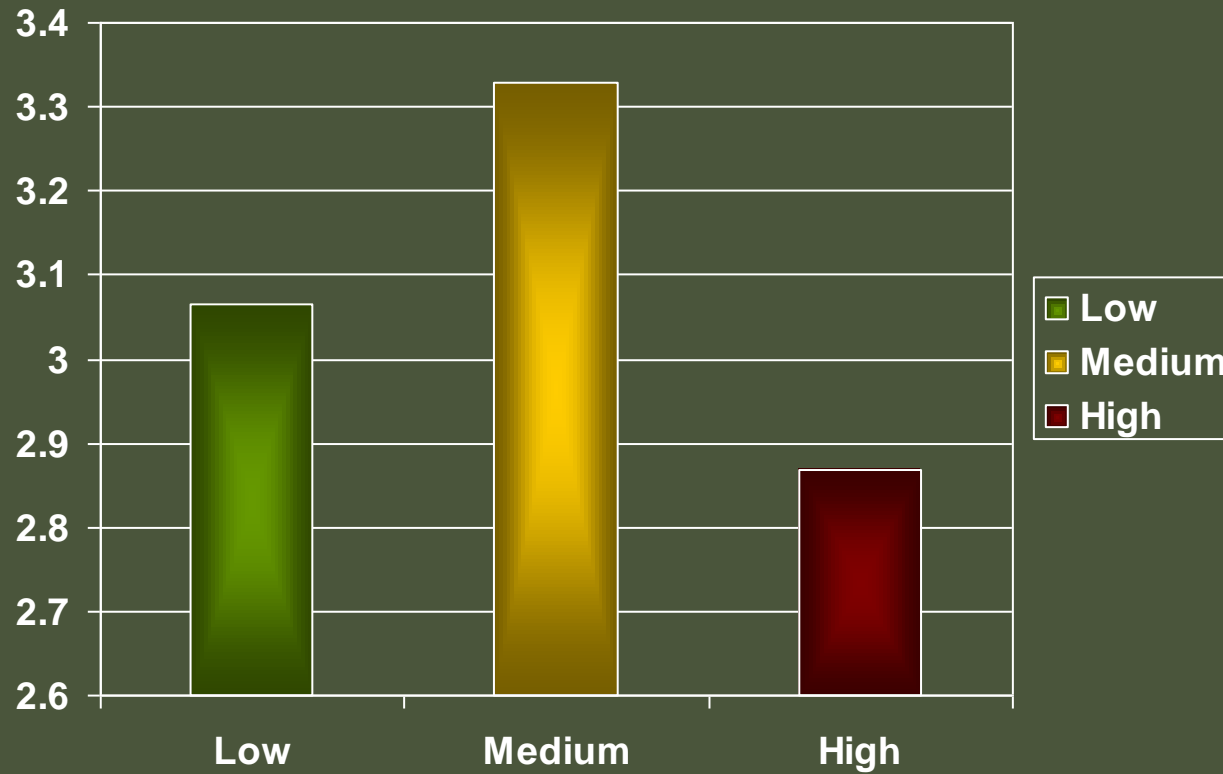
Region



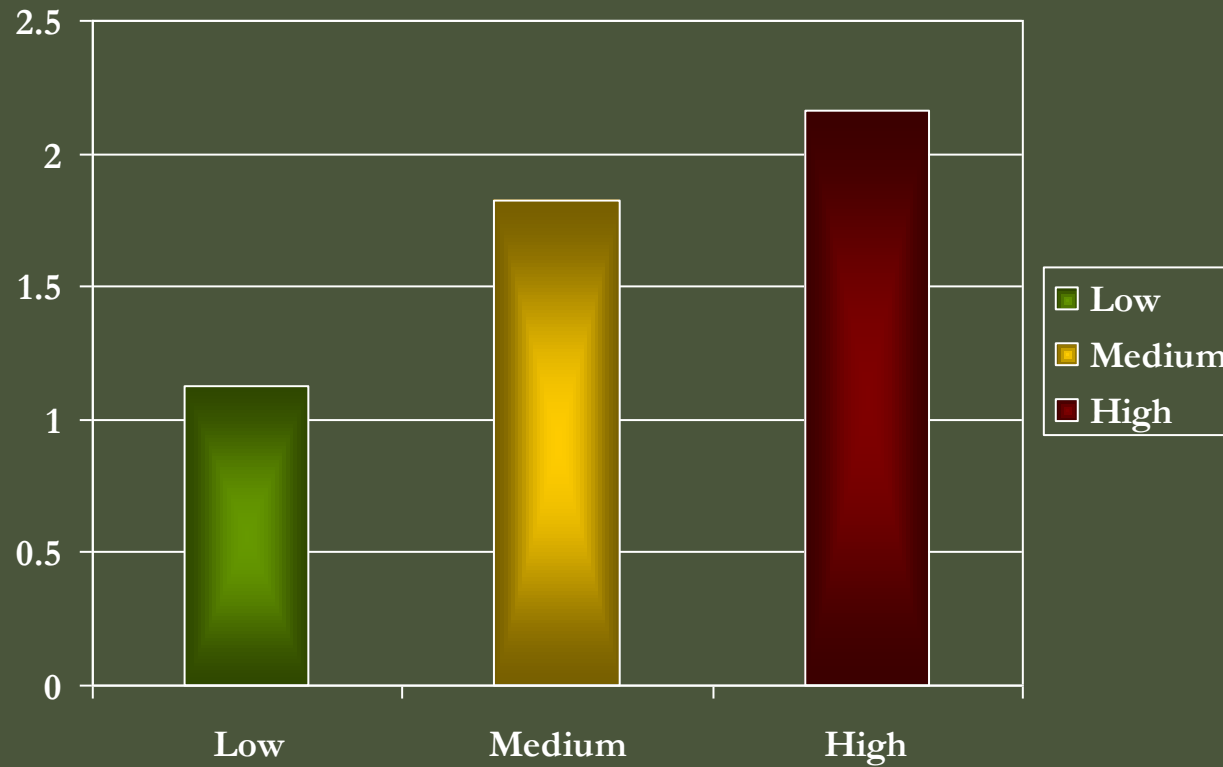
Church Attendance



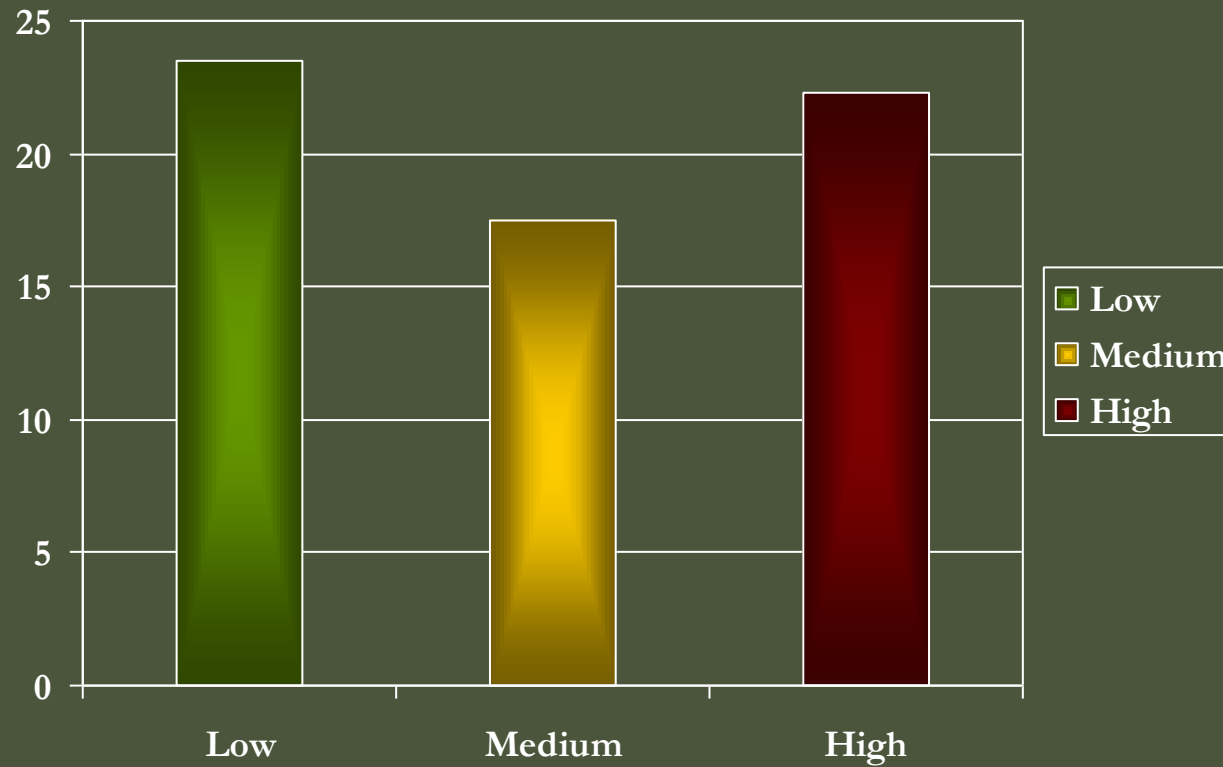
Network Closeness



Network Contact



Church Support



Multinomial Logistic Regression

Table 2. Coefficients for Effects of Demographic and Religion Variables on Church-based Negative Interaction Compared to Low Negative Interaction

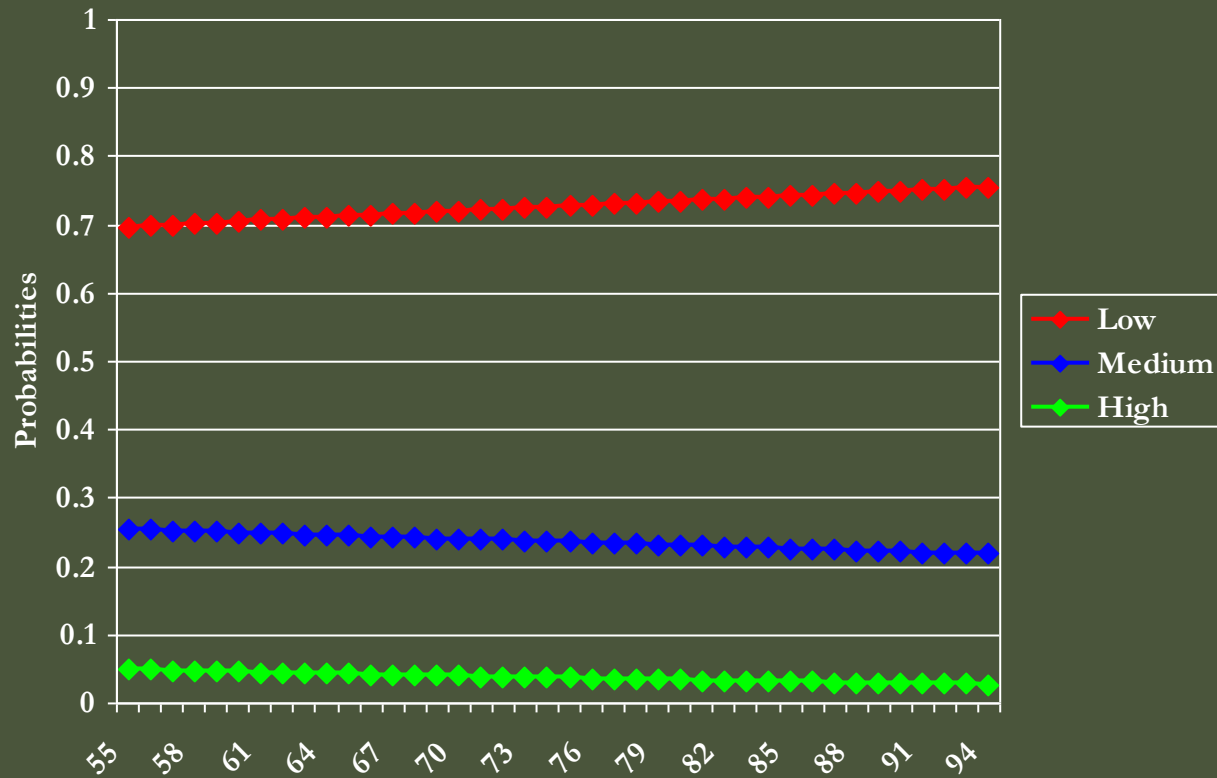
| Variable | OR | (95% CI) | Variable | OR | (95% CI) |
|---------------------------|------|--------------|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| Caribbean Black | | | Previously married | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.95 | (0.37, 2.46) | Medium vs. Low | 0.74 | (0.65, 0.85) |
| High vs. Low | 0.74 | (0.27, 2.03) | High vs. Low | 0.14 | (0.12, 0.16) |
| White | | | Never married | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.43 | (0.35, 0.52) | Medium vs. Low | 0.20 | (0.18, 0.23) |
| High vs. Low | 2.56 | (1.94, 3.39) | High vs. Low | 1.68 | (1.42, 1.98) |
| Age | | | Non-south | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.99 | (0.87, 1.13) | Medium vs. Low | 1.02 | (0.89, 1.16) |
| High vs. Low | 0.98 | (0.86, 1.13) | High vs. Low | 2.09 | (1.77, 2.47) |
| Female | | | Church attendance | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.97 | (0.85, 1.10) | Medium vs. Low | 1.11 | (0.61, 2.02) |
| High vs. Low | 0.56 | (0.47, 0.66) | High vs. Low | 0.55 | (0.24, 1.27) |
| Education | | | Contact | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 1.08 | (0.59, 1.97) | Medium vs. Low | 1.12 | (0.56, 2.25) |
| High vs. Low | 1.17 | (0.51, 2.70) | High vs. Low | 1.49 | (0.46, 4.83) |
| Poverty (100-199%) | | | Church support | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.82 | (0.57, 1.18) | Medium vs. Low | 0.99 | (0.69, 1.41) |
| High vs. Low | 1.39 | (0.82, 2.37) | High vs. Low | 1.00 | (0.59, 1.69) |
| Poverty (200-399%) | | | Closeness | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.85 | (0.60, 1.19) | Medium vs. Low | 1.30 | (0.93, 1.82) |
| High vs. Low | 0.62 | (0.41, 0.92) | High vs. Low | 0.76 | (0.51, 1.13) |
| Poverty (400%+) | | | | | |
| Medium vs. Low | 0.88 | (0.72, 1.08) | | | |
| High vs. Low | 0.52 | (0.39, 0.69) | | | |

Results: Estimated Probabilities for Classes

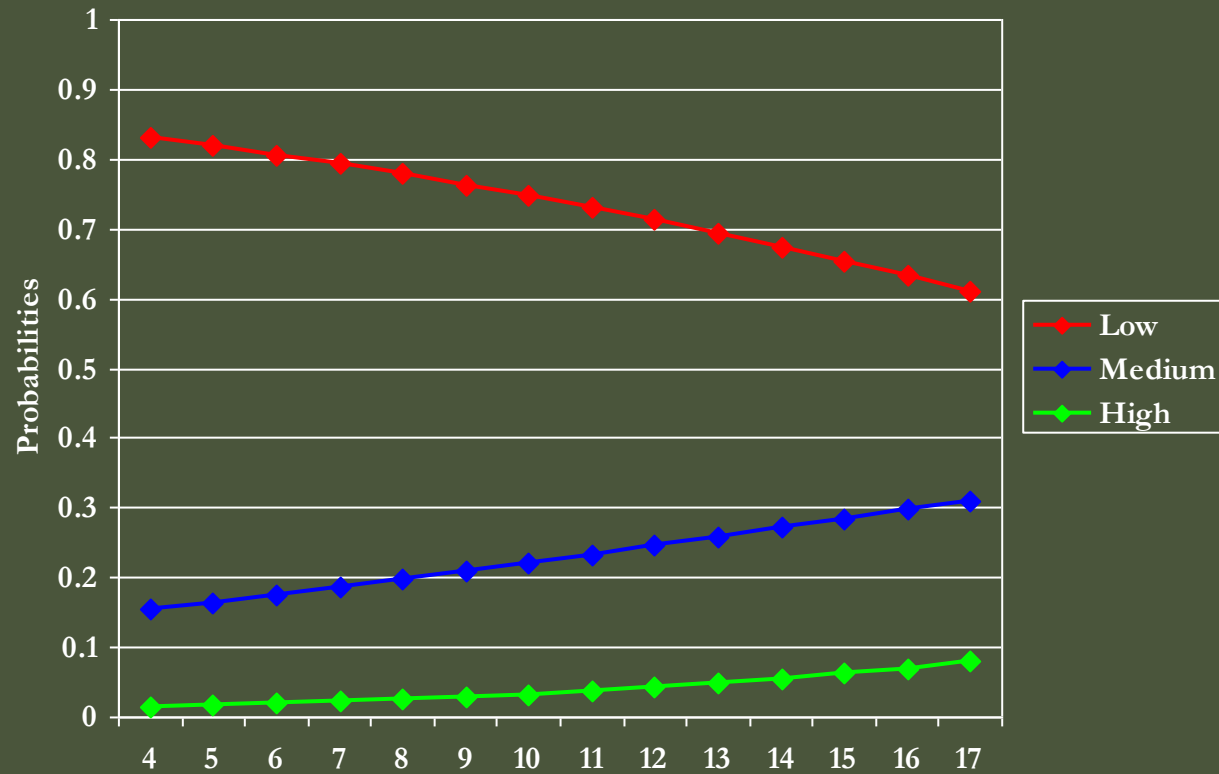


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- Would changing one's status change one's class membership?

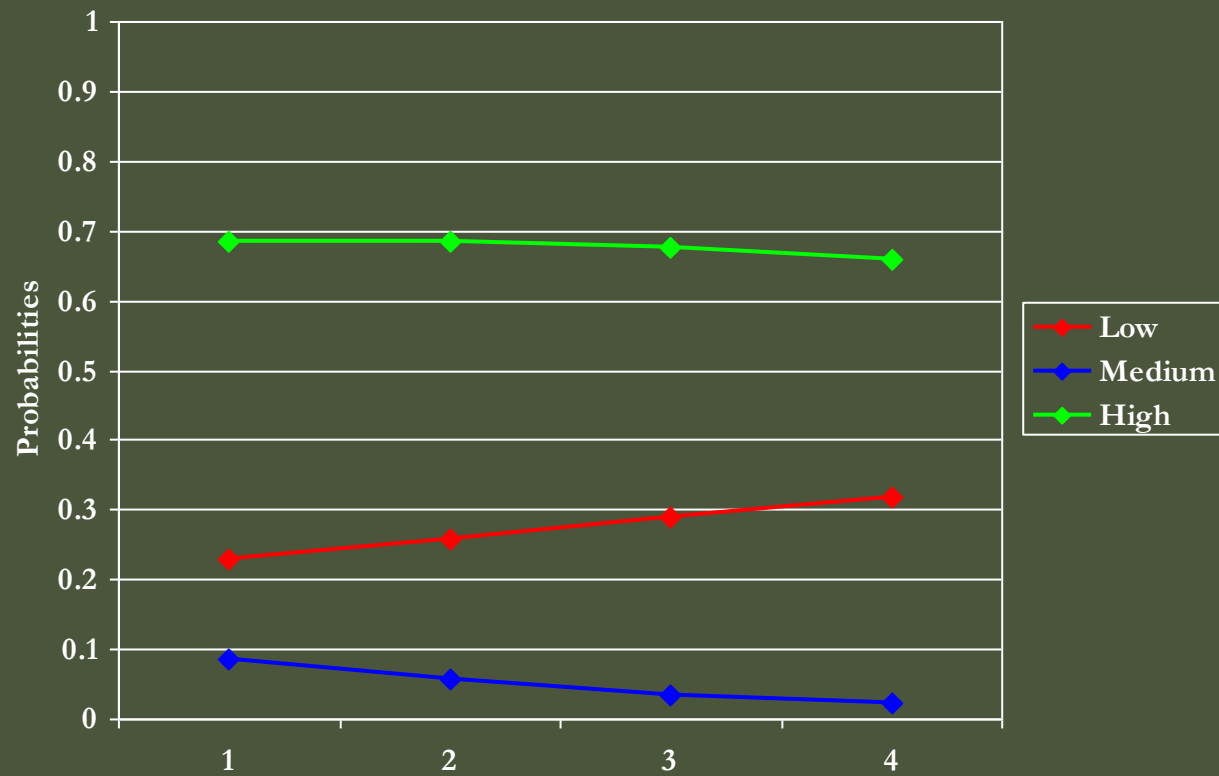
Age



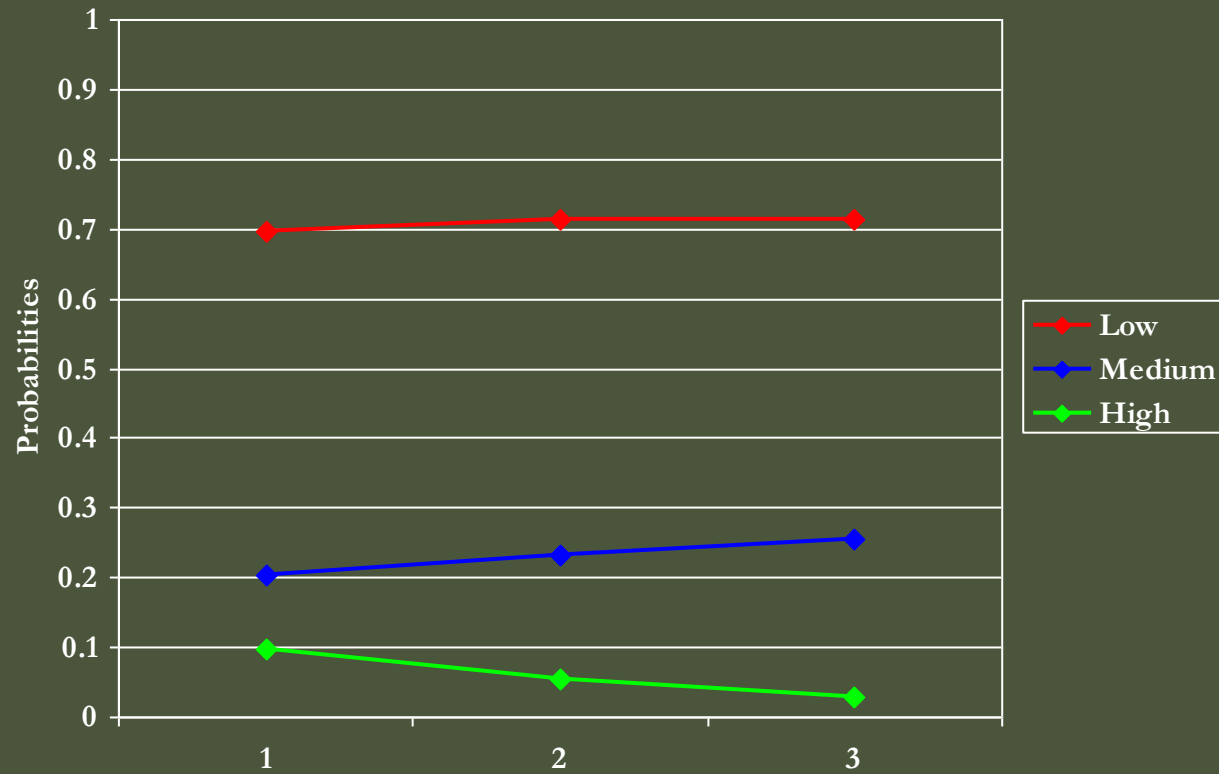
Education



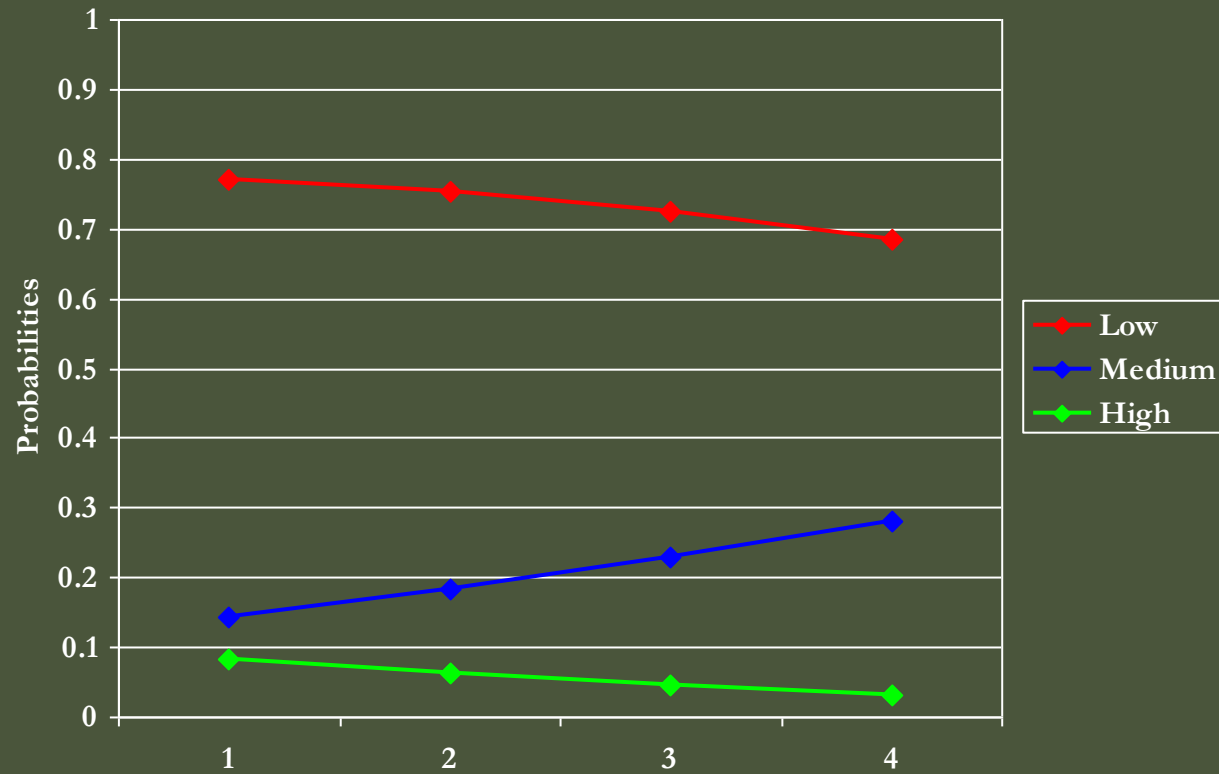
Income



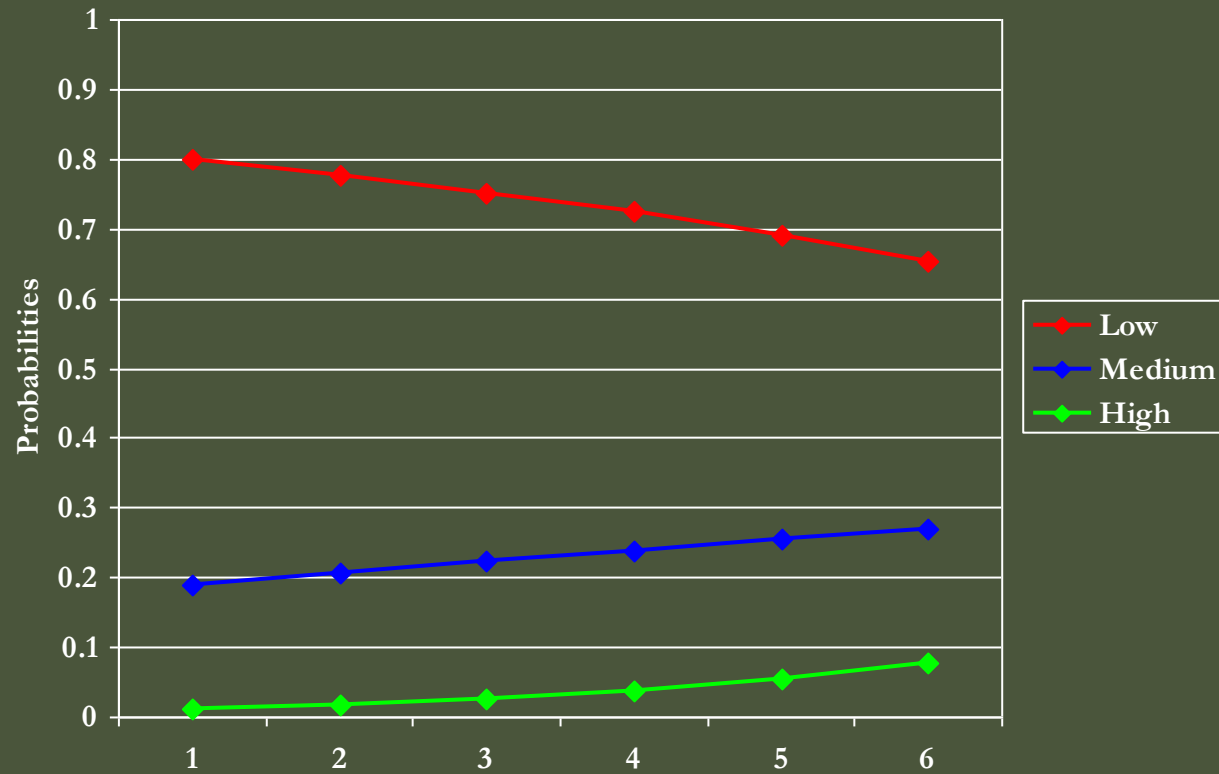
Church Attendance



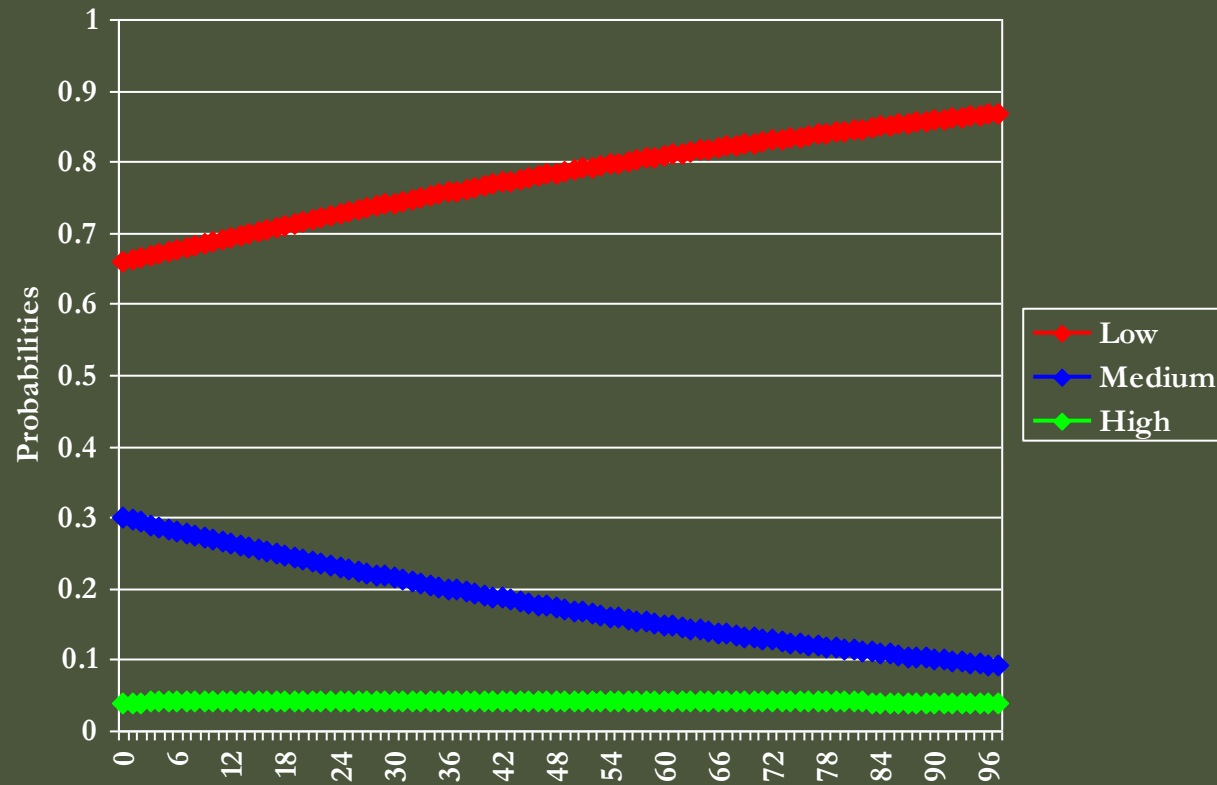
Network Closeness



Network Contact



Church Support



Summary of Findings



Heterogeneity

- ❑ Three profiles of church-based negative interactions were identified.
- ❑ Individuals have varying levels of risk for experiencing negative interactions in religious settings.
- ❑ Classes are heterogeneous with respect to age, race/ethnicity, gender, SES and religion factors, further demonstrating the variation religion profiles among older adults.

Heterogeneity

- ❑ The multivariate models indicate that race, gender and SES are stronger predictors of class membership compared to religion variables.
- ❑ Latent class profiles, however, indicate that levels of religious involvement do make a difference.

Religion Profile

- Those in the “low risk” group:
 - Relatively high church attendance
 - Relatively high closeness
 - Lowest contact
 - Highest church support/Largest network

Religion Profile

- Those in the “medium risk” group:
 - Highest church attendance
 - Highest level of closeness
 - Relatively high contact
 - Lowest church support/smallest network

Religion Profile

- Those in the “high risk” group:
 - Lowest church attendance
 - Lowest closeness
 - Highest contact
 - High church support/relatively large network

Demographic Profile

- Although classes are heterogeneous...
 - “Low risk” class tends to be older, Black, female, previously married, lower SES.
 - “Medium risk” class tends to be older, African American, female, lower SES.
 - “High risk” class tends to be younger, White, male, married, higher SES.

Future Research

- ❑ Include additional demographic and religion correlates.
- ❑ Develop and include negative interaction measures that are unique to religious settings and older adults.
- ❑ Examine extent to which these profiles of church-based negative interactions predict health outcomes.