

State-Level Analysis of Living Arrangements of Grandparents and Grandchildren and Excess Mortality Early in the COVID-19 Pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

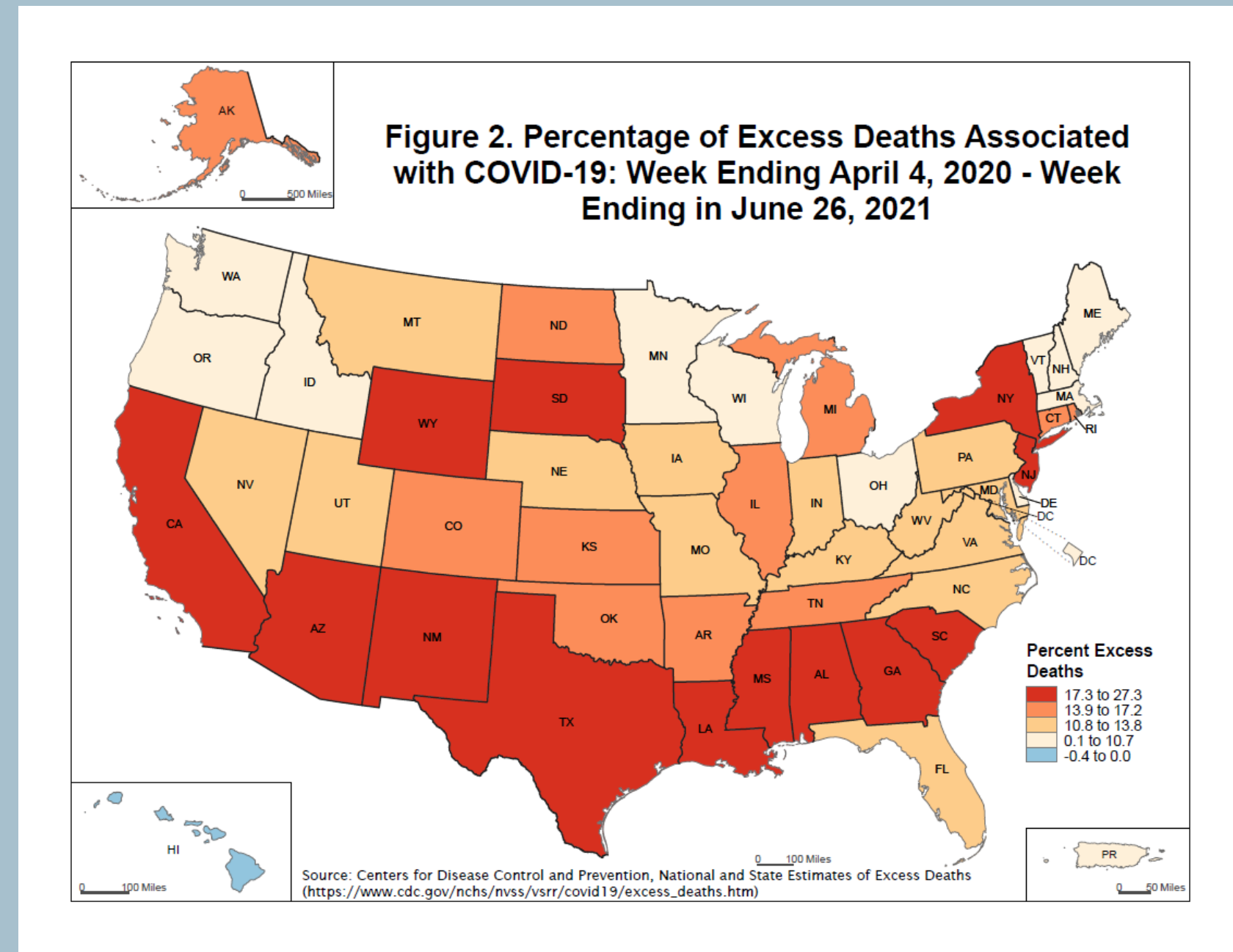
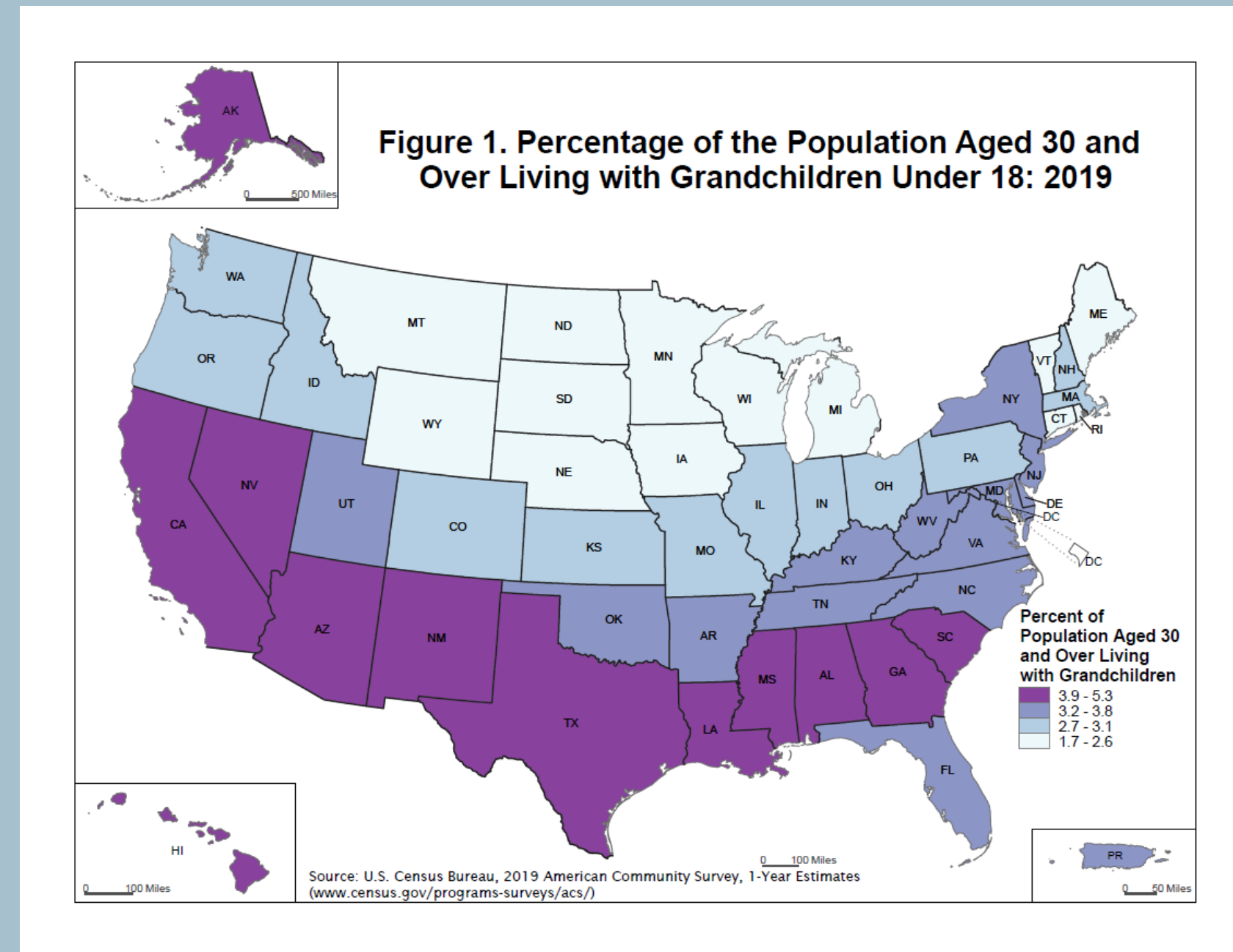
- In the United States, the proportion of the population age 65 years and over has been increasing for decades (He, Goodkind, and Kowal 2016; Carr 2019).
- Additionally, several studies have noted increases in the number of households with grandparents and coresident grandchildren (Roberts et al. 2018; Ellis and Simmons 2014).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

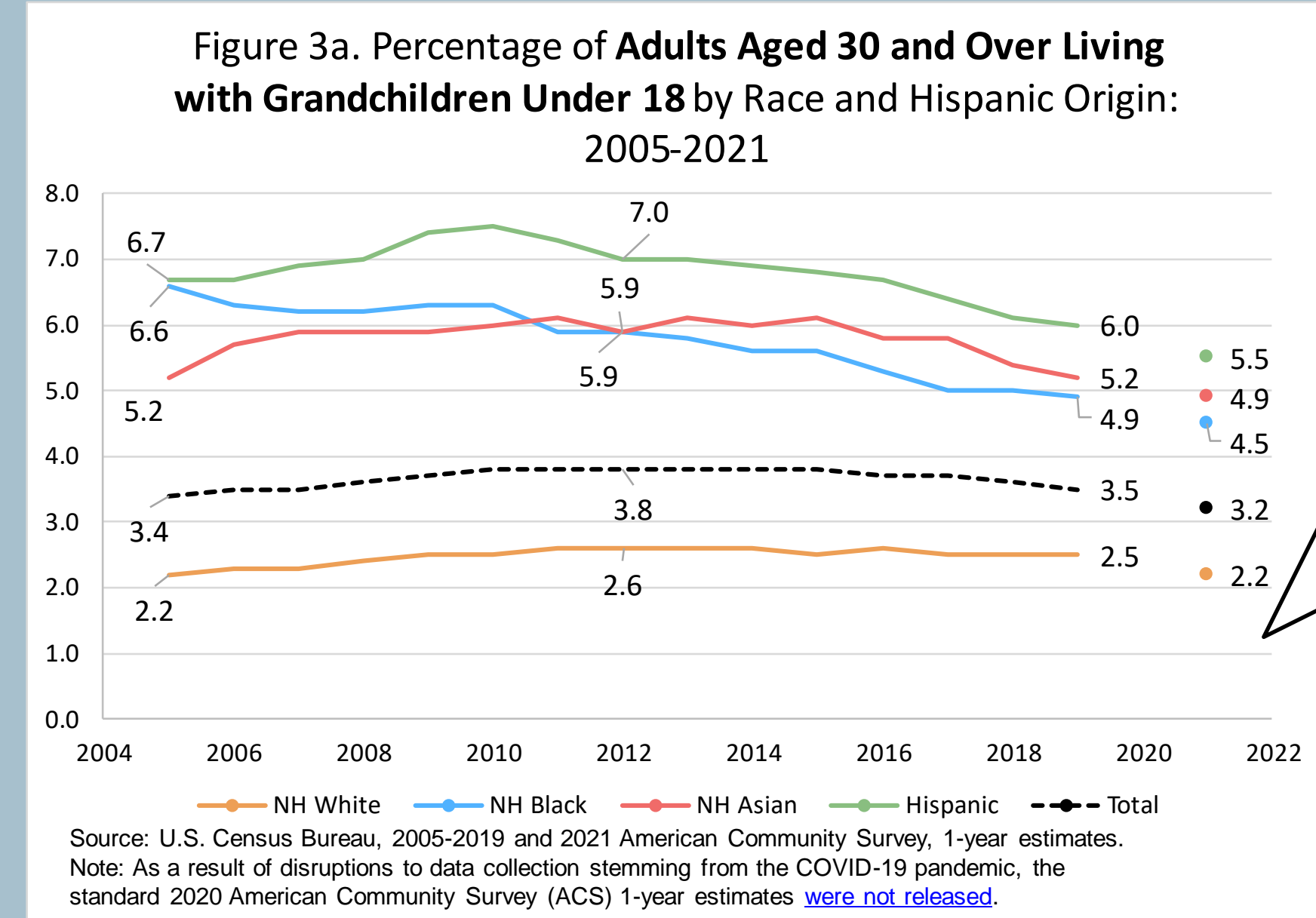
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected trends in grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren?
- How have these impacts varied by race/ethnicity and across states?

DATA & METHODS

- 2005–2019 and 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year estimates (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>). Regression models use only the 2019 and 2021 ACS, 1-year estimates.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Excess Mortality data (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm).
- Analyses use OLS regression to predict the percentage-point change in grandparents living with grandchildren, responsible for grandchildren, and responsible for grandchildren for <1 year between 2019 and 2021 at the state level.
- The main independent variable is the percentage of excess mortality between the week ending April 4, 2020, and the week ending June 31, 2021.
- Models were for all coresident grandparents and then separately for Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic White, and Hispanic coresident grandparents.
- All OLS regression variables are state-level estimates.

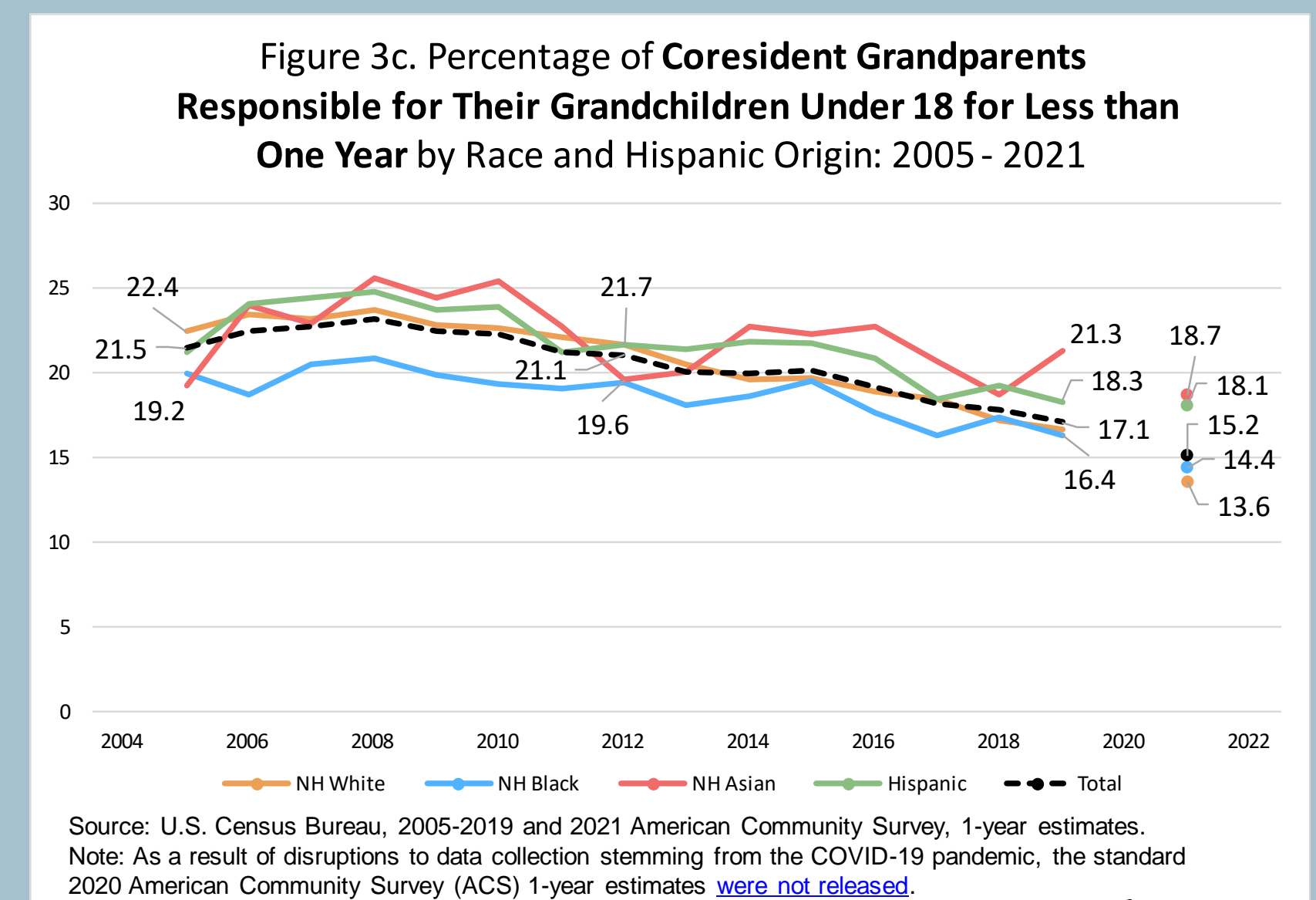
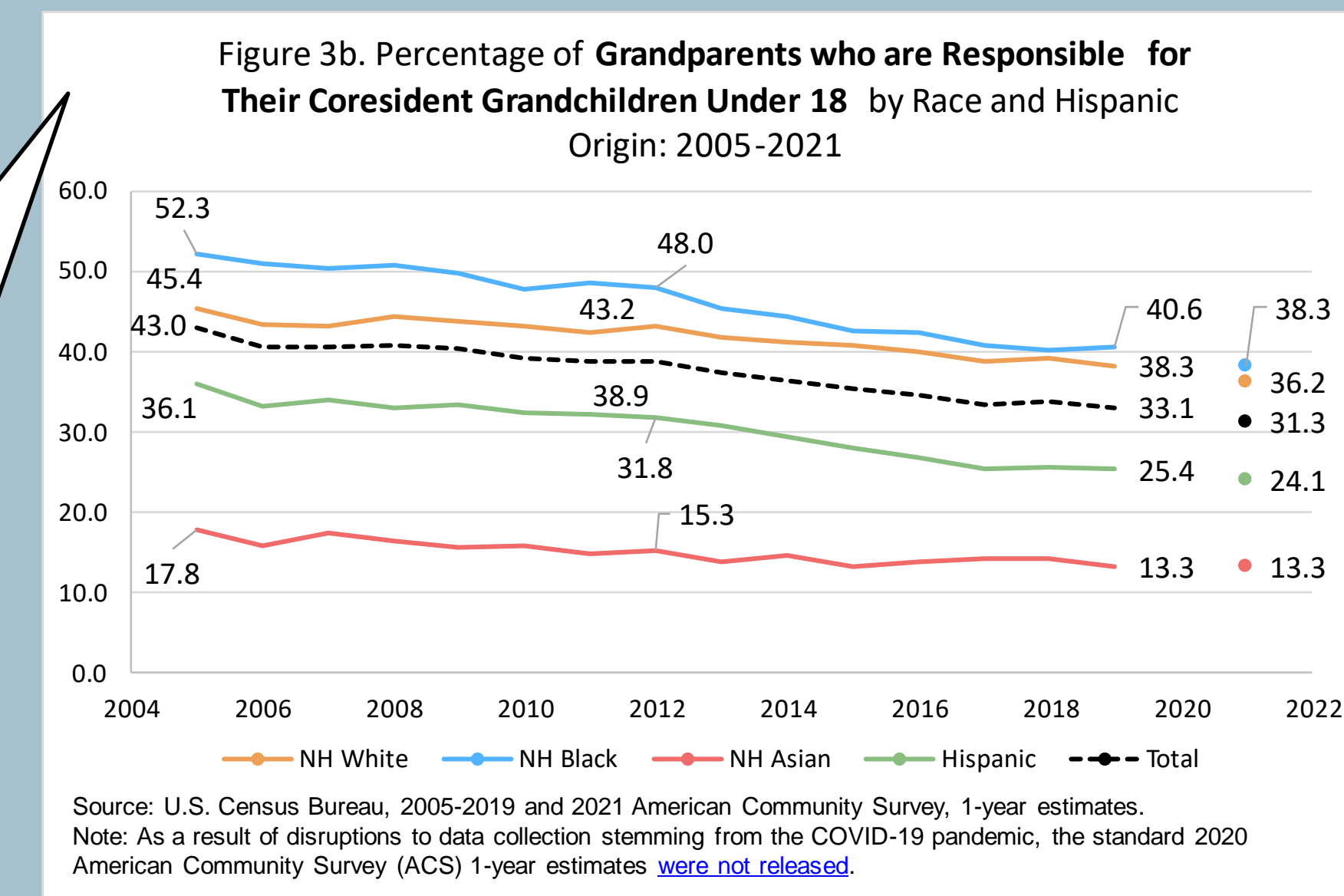


Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Texas are in both the highest quartile of states for the percentage of the population aged 30 and over living with grandchildren and the percentage of excess deaths. Meanwhile, Maine, Minnesota, Vermont, and Wisconsin are in the lowest quartiles of both characteristics.



The percentage of adults aged 30 and over living with grandchildren was significantly lower in 2021 than 2005 for all groups except for non-Hispanic White adults.

The percentage of coresident grandparents who were responsible for their grandchildren <18 was significantly lower for all groups in 2021 compared to 2005.



The percentage of grandparents who were responsible for their coresident grandchildren <18 for less than one year was significantly lower in 2021 than 2005 for all groups except Non-Hispanic Asian grandparents.

Table 1. OLS Regression Results

Dependent Variable (all are the percentage-point change from 2019 to 2021).	Results
Grandparents living with grandchildren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent excess mortality was not significant for any group. Negative association for percentage of households in poverty for all coresident grandparents and Non-Hispanic Black grandparents (marginally significant).
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative association for percent excess mortality for Hispanic grandparents. Positive association for percentage of households in poverty and percent employed in essential occupations (marginally significant) for Hispanic grandparents.
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren for less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive association for percent excess mortality for Hispanic grandparents. Positive association for households in poverty for Hispanic grandparents.

Significant at p<0.05 unless otherwise stated; marginally significant p<0.10. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19.

CONCLUSIONS

- No relationship between excess mortality and change in grandparents measures for most groups.
- Only Hispanic grandparents saw an association for those responsible for grandchildren and those responsible for less than 1 year.

REFERENCES

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