

Multiracial Children and Low Birth Weight in the United States and United Kingdom

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Although prior studies frame the importance of studying intermarriage patterns in terms of the increasing demographic salience of multiracial individuals and their potential to blur race/ethnic distinctions, the literature offers few insights into how the outcomes of multiracial individuals compare to those of their mono-racial counterparts. To fill this gap, we use two birth cohort studies – the American Fragile Family Studies of Child Wellbeing and the British Millennium Cohort Study, to compare disparities in low birth weight among multiracial and monoracial infants from various race/ethnic groups in the US and the UK. The birth outcomes of multiracial children in both the United States and United Kingdom fall somewhere in between Whites and mono-racial minorities. Although SES accounts for a considerable portion of the disparities in birth outcome between mono-racial Whites and multiracial children in the US, it explains little of the disparities in birth outcomes between these groups in the United Kingdom.

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