

of Peru (12.5%) and bacitracin (10%). These findings are consistent with the previous studies that have identified gold as the most common allergen in ACD of the eyelids, whereas others have found that nickel predominates.<sup>1,4</sup> Of note, all of our patients with metal allergy had bilateral eyelid dermatitis, whereas ingredients in topical cosmetic and medical products were implicated in both unilateral and bilateral diseases. In the cases of unilateral ACD, bacitracin was the most common culprit.

A previous study noted that 4-eyelid involvement is the main risk factor for ACD.<sup>5</sup> Although most ACD cases in our clinic did have 4-eyelid involvement, ACD was also the sole cause of unilateral eyelid dermatitis. Differentiating diagnostic etiologies of eyelid dermatitis by physical examination is difficult, obliging clinicians to rely on other clinical clues to make a diagnosis. Our findings suggest that eyelid laterality can aid clinicians in making the correct diagnosis, and ACD should be higher on the differential for patients with unilateral involvement.

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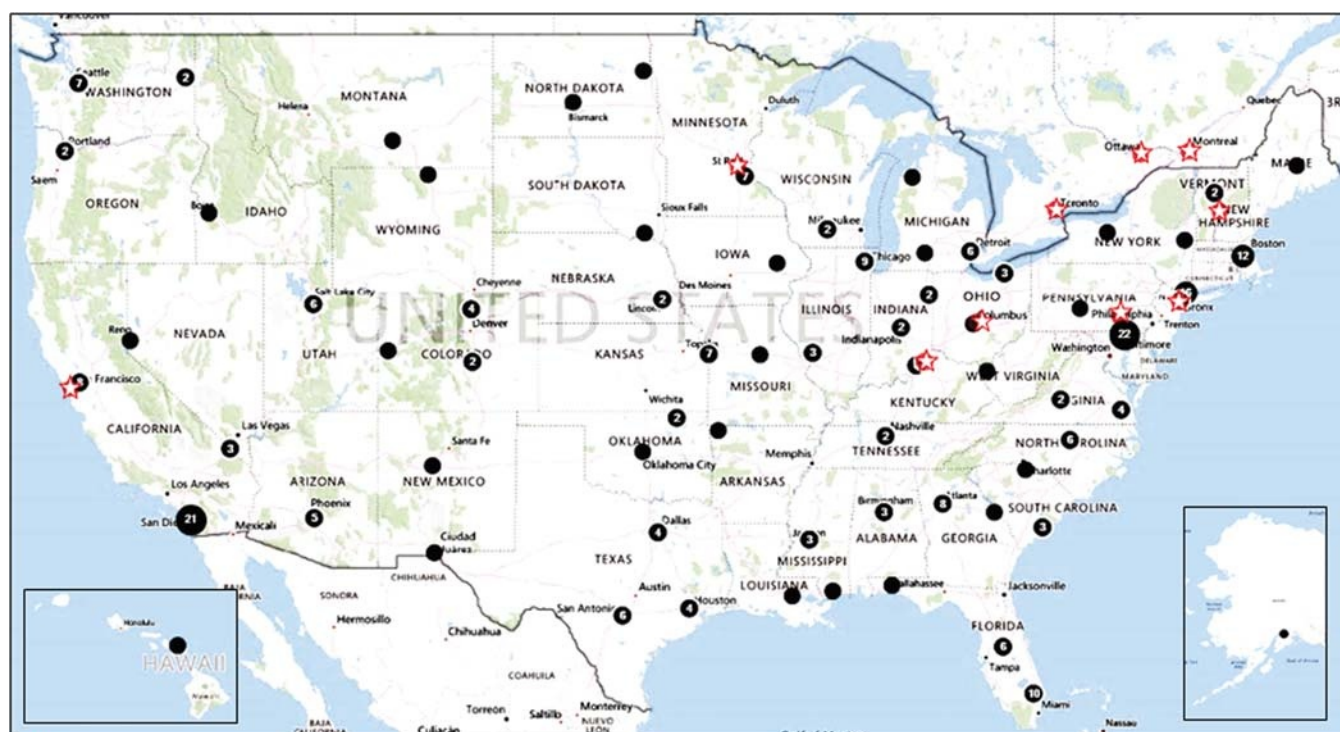
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## Contact Dermatitis in Underrepresented Minority Children

To the Editor:

The demographics of the US population are actively changing; thus, there is a growing need to study representable cohorts of dermatologic patients. Specifically, the US Hispanic population has been significantly increasing for the past several decades. In 2000, the US Census Bureau reported that the percentage of Hispanics surpassed the percentage of African



★ NACDG Pediatric Patient Data Sites  
● Pediatric Contact Dermatitis Registry Members

Figure 1. Map of active NACDG members and PCDR members.

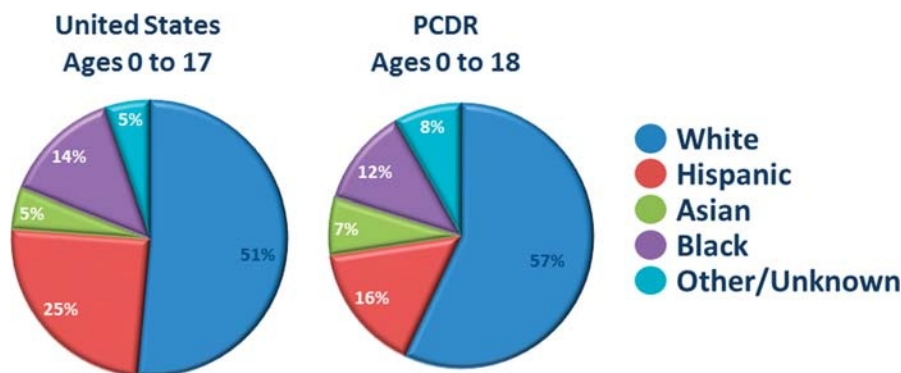


Figure 2. Demographics of children in the US and the PCDR.

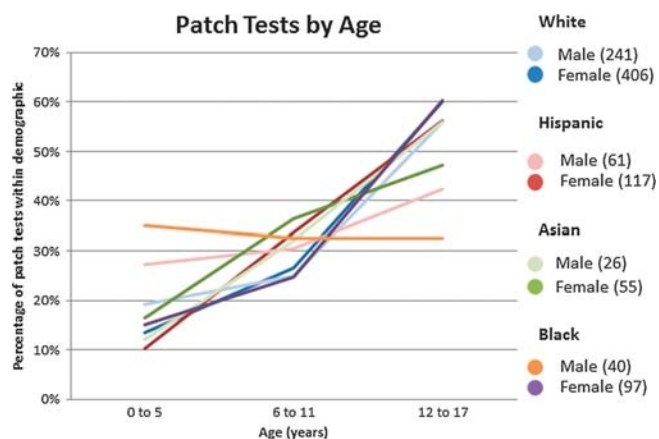


Figure 3. Patch tests by age.

Americans in the general US population (12.5% and 12.3%, respectively), making Hispanics the largest minority group in the country.<sup>1</sup> Among children, Hispanics accounted for 25% of the population in 2016.<sup>2</sup> Despite the significant growth of the Hispanic population, epidemiologic studies of dermatologic disease in Hispanic patients and other underrepresented minority groups are lacking.

The 2004 Burden of Skin Disease Study estimated that 72 million Americans (or 24.5% of the population) had at least 1 episode of contact dermatitis (CD) during the previous year.<sup>3</sup> The 2013 update demonstrated that CD was the fifth most prevalent skin disease, directly costing an estimated US \$1.5 billion per year with an additional US \$699 million in indirect costs, making CD the eighth most expensive subset of skin disorders.<sup>4</sup> Few studies to date have addressed the racial

differences in delayed hypersensitivity skin reactions. Two North American Contact Dermatitis Group reports have been published with a focus on race data (1992–1998 and 1998–2006). In the most recent 8-year study period, a total of 19,457 patients were tested; 92.9% (17,803) were white, and 7.1% (1360) were black. In respect to including other minority groups, the authors disclosed that “the number of patients in these groups in our database was not sufficient to make reasonable comparisons.”<sup>5</sup> The estimated prevalence using the US Census Bureau and American Academy of Dermatology - Society for Investigative Dermatology Burden of Skin Disease study data confirms that the actual numbers are not small. One possible explanation for why these groups are poorly represented is lack of geographic diversity among North American Contact Dermatitis Group members (Fig. 1). Other factors contributing to the difficulty in using the health care system include language barriers, low rate of medical insurance coverage, low income, and limited knowledge of health services.

The Pediatric Contact Dermatitis Registry database has served a vital role in providing more data on the epidemiology of allergic CD in US underrepresented minority children.<sup>6</sup> This retrospective analysis evaluated 1142 children patch tested across 34 US states, by 84 providers (Fig. 1). Notably, the ethnic breakdown of the database is reflective of the national racial/ethnic demographics in the US ethnic distribution (Fig. 2). Of note, patch test evaluation rates were noted to increase with age across ages and sexes, with 1 major exception: black men (Fig. 3). Furthermore, black children were noted to experience dermatitis 1.2 years longer than whites and 1.6 years longer than Hispanics.

Despite their significant populations in the United States, both Hispanics and blacks have been historically underrepresented in dermatologic literature. Because minorities account for a growing proportion of the American population, this dearth of knowledge underscores the need for dermatologists to better understand disease manifestation in skin of color.

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*S.E.J. is founder and CEO of Dermatitis Academy, an open-access contact dermatitis learning forum, E-source; served as a coordinating principal investigator on the safety and efficacy of T.R.U.E. Test (Smart Practice, Phoenix, AZ) panels 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1 in children and adolescents, Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA-1) trial; and has served as a consultant for Johnson & Johnson. M.A.M. and A.G. have no relevant disclosures.*

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