

# THE LANCET Microbe

## Supplementary appendix

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# Appendix.

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## Supplementary Methods.

### Genome assembly.

Sequencing reads from publicly available *N. gonorrhoeae* datasets (Supplementary Table 3) were downloaded from the European Nucleotide Archive. Quality of reads was assessed using FastQC (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). Reads were mapped to the NCCP11945 (NC\_011035.1) reference genome using BWA-MEM v 0.7.17<sup>1</sup>. Duplicate reads were marked with Picard v 2.20.1 (<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>), and reads were sorted with samtools v X. The quality of mapped reads was assessed using Qualimap's bamqc v 2.2.1<sup>2</sup>. We used Pilon v 1.23<sup>3</sup> to call variants (minimum mapping quality 20 and minimum coverage of 10). To create pseudogenomes, we replaced the reference allele with high quality variant calls (at least 90% of reads supporting allele). Positions called as deletions by Pilon were replaced with a gap character ('-'), and positions with low coverage or an indeterminate allele were replaced with an N.

Sequencing reads were additionally assembled using SPAdes v 3.12.0<sup>4</sup>. Assemblies were corrected by mapping reads to contigs using the --careful option. Contigs less than 500bp long or with less than 10X coverage were removed from assemblies. Quality of assemblies was assessed using QUAST v 5.0.2<sup>5</sup> (Supplementary Figure 1B).

Accessions and quality control statistics are available at [github.com/gradlab/pcn\\_tet\\_susceptibility\\_gwas](https://github.com/gradlab/pcn_tet_susceptibility_gwas) in the data/prediction/ directory for the global dataset and data/validation for the GISP 2018<sup>6</sup> dataset.

### Identification of known resistance associated alleles.

Alleles previously described to be associated with resistance (Supplementary Table 1) were identified in pseudogenomes or *de novo* assemblies. Single nucleotide variants occurring in the background of *N. gonorrhoeae* alleles were called using Pilon variant calls (e.g. genomic position 2031479 for *rpsJ* codon 57). *penA* alleles from assemblies were typed according to the naming scheme and mosaic designations used by the NG-STAR database (last accessed March 2, 2021)<sup>7</sup>, requiring 100% identity to be matched to a specific allele. The resistance associated insertion in *penA* at codon 345 was identified using blastn from BLAST+ v 2.9.0<sup>8</sup> of *de novo* assemblies with alleles from FA1090 (NC\_002946.2) serving as the wild type reference. The presence of plasmid-mediated resistance elements (*bla*<sub>TEM</sub> and *tetM*) were also identified using blastn of *de novo* assemblies; the query sequences were NG\_068038.1 and MG874353.1 accession, respectively.

The presence of resistance alleles are available at [github.com/gradlab/pcn\\_tet\\_susceptibility\\_gwas](https://github.com/gradlab/pcn_tet_susceptibility_gwas) in the data/prediction/ directory for the global dataset and data/validation for the GISP 2018<sup>6</sup> dataset.

### Genome wide association studies.

As in previous studies<sup>9,10</sup>, we used a linear mixed model based GWAS implemented in pyseer v 1.3.6<sup>11</sup> to test for associations of variants with penicillin and tetracycline MICs.

*Model.*

$$Y \sim W\alpha + X\beta + u + \epsilon$$

$$u \sim N(0, \sigma_g^2 K)$$

$$\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2 I)$$

$Y$  is a vector of MICs.  $W$  and  $\alpha$  are the covariate matrix and their fixed effects, respectively.  $X$  is a vector representing the presence of the unitig or kmer, and  $\beta$  is the fixed effect for the genetic variant. To control for population structure,  $u$  is a random effect parameterized with  $K$  (a similarity matrix) and  $\sigma_g^2$  (additive genetic variance). Non-genetic effects are modeled by the random effect  $\epsilon$ .

#### *Phenotype.*

For 2116 isolates with available MICs, TET MICs were reported as  $\leq 4$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$  or  $\leq 8$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . These were excluded since we could not classify them as susceptible or resistant. Isolates with PCN MICs reported as '>4' or '>2' were not included in the GWAS analysis since the precise MIC was unknown. 6220 isolates were included in the penicillin GWAS, and 3453 isolates were included in the tetracycline GWAS. For all other datasets, when reported MICs contained '>' or '<' symbols, these symbols were stripped and the numerical value was used as the MIC for GWAS. MICs were log2-transformed.

#### *Unitig and kmer calling.*

Unitigs and kmers were generated from de novo assemblies to represent the genetic variation present within this dataset. Unitigs were generated from a compressed de Bruijn graph with unitig-counter v 1.1.0 (<https://github.com/johnlees/unitig-counter>), based on the approach used in DBGWAS<sup>12</sup>. Kmers were generated using fsm-lite v 1.0 (<https://github.com/nvalimak/fsm-lite>). Unitigs and kmers present in 1%-99% of the dataset were tested for association with the phenotype.

#### *Population structure.*

We used an alignment of pseudogenomes for phylogenetic analysis. To identify recombinant regions and estimate a recombination free phylogeny, we used Gubbins v 2.4.1<sup>13</sup> and RAxML v 8.2.12<sup>14</sup>. A similarity matrix describing the relatedness of isolates was generated from the phylogeny using phylogeny\_distance.py from pyseer with the --lmm flag.

#### *Covariates.*

We included the country of isolation and original dataset as covariates in the GWAS to correct for geographic differences in MIC protocols and study specific sequencing artifacts. We also included the presence of plasmid-mediated resistance determinants encoded as 0 for absent and 1 for present as covariates.

#### *Significance testing.*

The significance of variants was assessed using a likelihood ratio test. We additionally corrected for multiple hypothesis testing using a Bonferroni correction based on the number of unique presence/absence patterns for unitigs or kmers obtained from count\_patterns.py from pyseer. The threshold for significance in the penicillin GWAS was  $3.13 \times 10^{-7}$  (0.05/159609) for unitigs and  $3.49 \times 10^{-8}$  (0.05/1433207) for kmers, and the threshold for significance in the tetracycline GWAS was  $3.41 \times 10^{-7}$  (0.05/146496) for unitigs and  $4.44 \times 10^{-8}$  (0.05/1125008) for kmers.

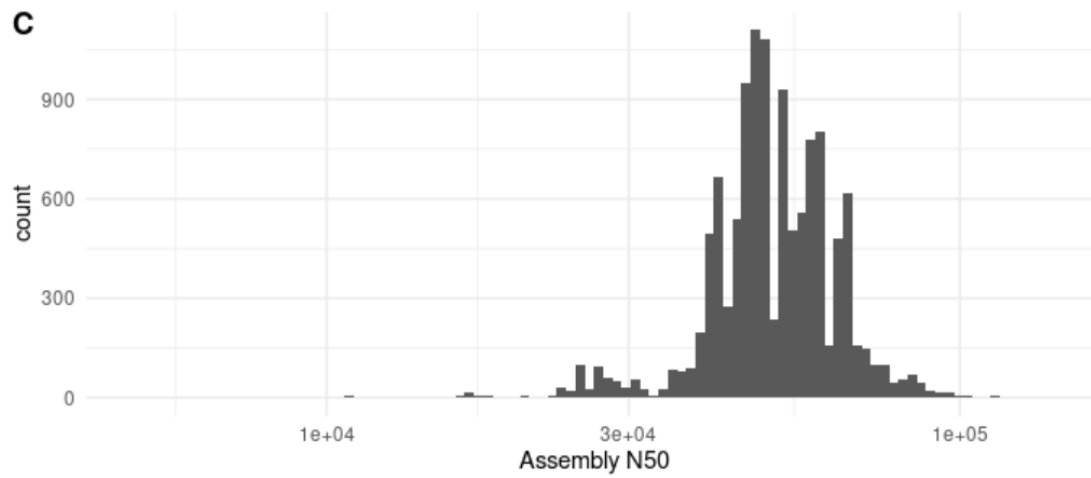
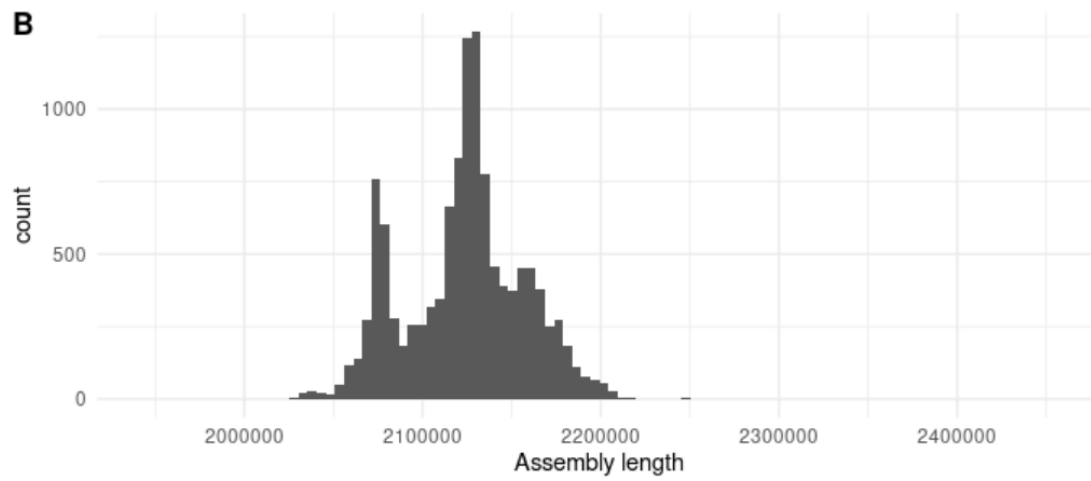
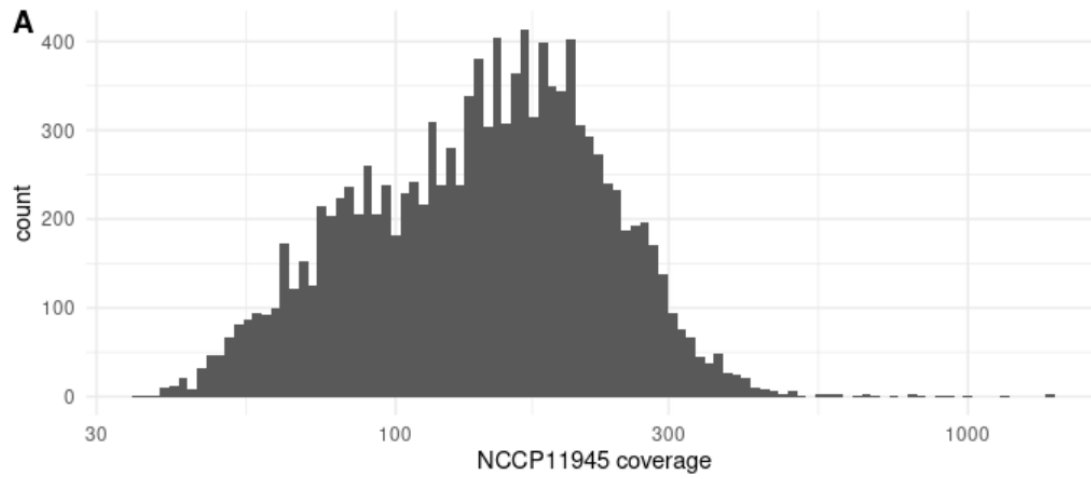
#### *Annotation of significant variants.*

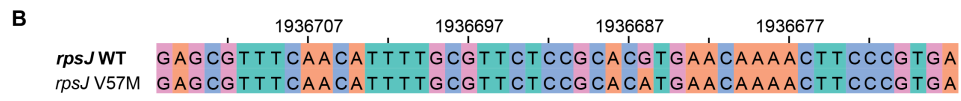
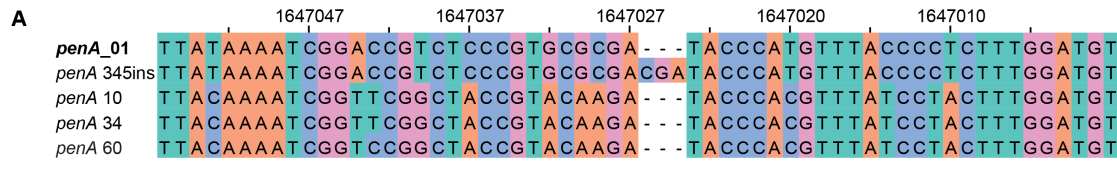
Unitigs and kmers were mapped to the WHO\_N reference genome (GCA\_900087725.2) as this genome contains both the *tetM*-encoding conjugative plasmid and the *bla*<sub>TEM</sub>-encoding plasmid with pyseer's annotate\_hits\_pyseer. The output was used to generate Manhattan plots in R v 4.0.3<sup>15</sup> with ggplot2<sup>16</sup>. We considered significant unitigs and kmers that uniquely mapped to one location in the genome for further analyses.

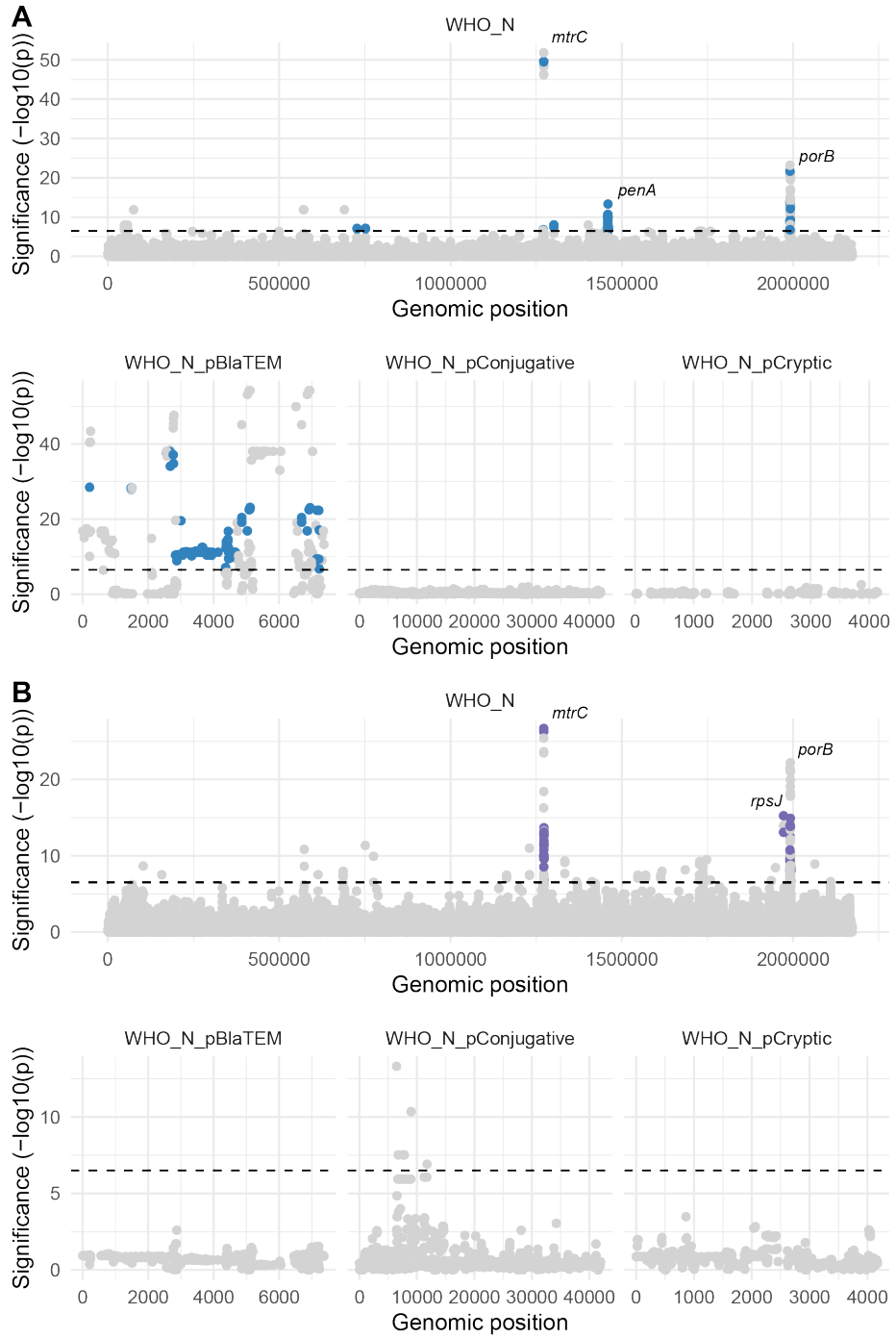
To visualize variation between susceptibility associated unitigs and the homologous region in resistant isolates, we aligned *penA*\_01, which is present in WHO\_F (NZ\_LT591897.1) to the equivalent *penA* region in isolates encoding the insertion at codon 345 (WHO\_N, NZ\_LT591910.1), mosaic *penA* 10

(WHO\_K, NZ\_LT591908.1), mosaic *penA* 34 (WHO\_Y, NZ\_LT592161.1), and mosaic *penA* 60 (FC428, NZ\_AP018377.1). We also aligned the tetracycline susceptibility associated unitig, which is present in WHO\_F to the equivalent *rpsJ* region in WHO\_N. These alignments were visualized with Jalview 2.11.1.4<sup>17</sup>.

## Supplementary Figures.









## Supplementary Tables.

**Supplementary Table 1. Previously described penicillin and tetracycline resistance markers.**

Antibiotic	Gene	Variants
Penicillin	<i>bla</i> <sub>TEM</sub> <sup>41</sup>	
	<i>ponA</i>	L421P <sup>42</sup>
	<i>penA</i>	Mosaic alleles <sup>43</sup> 345ins <sup>44,45</sup> A501V/P <sup>46</sup> G545S/I312M/V316T <sup>47</sup>
Tetracycline	<i>tetM</i> <sup>48</sup>	
	<i>rpsJ</i>	V57M <sup>49</sup>
Both	<i>porB</i>	G120K, A121D/N <sup>50,51</sup>
	<i>mtr</i> operon	promoter <sup>52</sup> <i>mtrR</i> A39T, G45D <sup>53</sup>

**Supplementary Table 2. Sensitivity and specificity of plasmid-associated markers for predicting PCN and TET susceptibility with 95% confidence interval.**

Genotype	Phenotype	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
Absence of <i>bla</i> <sub>TEM</sub>	PCN susceptible (MIC ≤ 0.06 µg/mL)	98.5% (98.2% - 98.8%)	13.9% (12.9% - 14.8%)
	PCN non-resistant (MIC < 2 µg/mL)	98.3% (97.9% - 98.6%)	51.8% (50.4% - 53.1%)
Absence of <i>tetM</i>	TET susceptible (MIC ≤ 0.25 µg/mL)	99.4% (99.0% - 99.7%)	23.4% (21.4% - 25.4%)
	TET non-resistant (MIC < 2 µg/mL)	99.5% (99.1% - 99.8%)	40.0% (36.7% - 41.4%)

**Supplementary Table 3. Prevalence of susceptibility associated genotypes across datasets.**

The susceptible genotype for PCN is the presence of penA\_01 and the absence of blaTEM. The susceptible genotype for TET is the presence of wild-type rpsJ codon 57 and the absence of tetM. Non-susceptible genotypes include all other genotypes.

Dataset	PCN genotypes		TET genotypes	
	Susceptible	Non-susceptible	Susceptible	Non-susceptible
Alfsnes et al. 2020 <sup>18</sup>	18 (1.9%)	906 (98.1%)	222 (24.0%)	702 (76.0%)
Buckley et al. 2018 <sup>19</sup>	0 (0.0%)	93 (100.0%)	93 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Cehovin et al. 2018 <sup>20</sup>	0 (0.0%)	103 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	103 (100.0%)
De Silva et al. 2016 <sup>21</sup>	35 (2.5%)	1365 (97.5%)	219 (15.6%)	1181 (84.4%)
Demczuk et al. 2015 <sup>22</sup>	7 (6.6%)	99 (93.4%)	20 (18.9%)	86 (81.1%)
Demczuk et al. 2016 <sup>23</sup>	3 (1.5%)	193 (98.5%)	1 (0.5%)	195 (99.5%)
Eyre et al. 2017 <sup>24</sup>	21 (9.1%)	210 (90.9%)	33 (14.3%)	198 (85.7%)
Ezewudo et al. 2015 <sup>25</sup>	3 (5.6%)	51 (94.4%)	8 (14.8%)	46 (85.2%)
Fifer et al. 2018 <sup>26</sup>	0 (0.0%)	50 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	50 (100.0%)
Grad et al. 2014, 2016 <sup>27,28</sup>	11 (1.0%)	1084 (99.0%)	56 (5.1%)	1039 (94.9%)
Harris et al. 2018 <sup>29</sup>	54 (5.3%)	960 (94.7%)	119 (11.7%)	895 (88.3%)
Kwong et al. 2017 <sup>30</sup>	0 (0.0%)	94 (100.0%)	2 (2.1%)	92 (97.9%)
Lan et al. 2020 <sup>31</sup>	2 (0.9%)	226 (99.1%)	2 (0.9%)	226 (99.1%)
Lee et al. 2018 <sup>32</sup>	4 (1.0%)	393 (99.0%)	119 (30.0%)	278 (70.0%)
Mortimer et al. 2020 <sup>33</sup>	34 (3.8%)	862 (96.2%)	129 (14.4%)	767 (85.6%)
Peng et al. 2019 <sup>34</sup>	0 (0.0%)	421 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	421 (100.0%)
Ryan et al. 2018 <sup>35</sup>	0 (0.0%)	39 (100.0%)	1 (2.6%)	38 (97.4%)
Sánchez-Busó et al. 2018 <sup>36</sup>	30 (7.9%)	348 (92.1%)	36 (9.5%)	342 (90.5%)
Thomas et al. 2019 <sup>37</sup>	7 (1.1%)	606 (98.9%)	59 (9.6%)	554 (90.4%)
Town et al. 2020 <sup>38</sup>	13 (1.0%)	1259 (99.0%)	257 (20.2%)	1016 (79.8%)
Williamson et al. 2019 <sup>39</sup>	6 (0.3%)	2175 (99.7%)	506 (23.2%)	1675 (76.8%)
Yahara et al. 2018 <sup>40</sup>	4 (1.5%)	256 (98.5%)	36 (13.8%)	224 (86.2%)

**Supplementary Table 4. Counts for true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives in the global and validation datasets.**

Genotype	Phenotype	Global Dataset				Validation Dataset (GISP 2018 <sup>6</sup> )			
		True Positives	False Positives	True Negatives	False Negatives	True Positives	False Positives	True Negatives	False Negatives
<i>penA</i> _01 + absence of <i>bla</i> <sub>TEM</sub>	PCN susceptible (MIC ≤ 0.06 µg/mL)	99	12	6653	171	42	15	1398	24
	PCN non-resistant (MIC < 2 µg/mL)	111	0	1617	5207	57	0	190	1232
<i>rpsJ</i> WT + absence of <i>tetM</i>	TET susceptible (MIC ≤ 0.25 µg/mL)	409	88	3062	52	183	62	1181	51
	TET non-resistant (MIC < 2 µg/mL)	491	6	1869	1245	243	2	378	854

**Supplementary Table 5. Number and percentage of GISP isolates reported from 2018 encoding susceptibility associated genotypes by sexual behavior and race/ethnicity.** Dash indicates that no isolates were collected from the demographic group indicated. The susceptible genotype for PCN is the presence of *penA\_01* and the absence of *bla<sub>TEM</sub>*. The susceptible genotype for TET is the presence of wild-type *rpsJ* codon 57 and the absence of *tetM*.

	PCN Susceptible Genotype			TET Susceptible Genotype		
	MSM	MSMW	MSW	MSM	MSMW	MSW
American Indian	0 (0.0%)	-	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	-	2 (40.0%)
Asian	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.1%)	1 (5.0%)	1 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (25.0%)
Black	20 (5.0%)	0 (0.0%)	33 (5.7%)	13 (10.8%)	3 (7.7%)	32 (22.9%)
Hispanic	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.9%)	13 (11.8%)	1 (7.7%)	13 (11.6%)
Multi-racial	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (10.0%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (20.0%)
Native Hawaiian	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (11.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
White	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (6.8%)	14 (8.0%)	3 (11.5%)	17 (16.5%)
p-value ( $\chi^2$ test)	0.073		0.96	0.52		0.19

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