Racial/ethnic disparities in cigarette and cigar prevalence and intensity of use among exclusive, dual, and polyusers

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SIGNIFICANCE
- Racial/ethnic disparities in cigar prevalence and intensity of use are unclear in the context of exclusive use or concurrent use with cigarettes

METHODS
- Adult (18+) data from Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Wave 4 (2016-17)
- Current use: established every day/some day use
- Intensity of use: median number of cigarettes or cigars per month
- Weighted population prevalence and intensity of use for nine categories of cigarette and cigar exclusive, dual (2 products), or polyuse (3+ products) for non-Hispanic (NH) Black, NH White, and Hispanic adults
- Nonparametric equality of medians test for racial/ethnic differences in intensity of use

Prevalence of exclusive and dual/polyuse of cigarettes, cigarillos, filtered cigars, and traditional cigars by race/ethnicity (PATH Wave 4, 2016-2017)

- NH Black adults had the highest prevalence of exclusive cigarillo use (1.8%), cigarette + cigarillo dual use (1.8%), and cigarette + cigar polyuse (0.8%) (Figure)
- NH White adults had the highest intensity of use within many user categories, including:
  - Cigarettes per month among exclusive cigarette smokers (360 vs. NH Black: 240; Hispanic: 150)*
  - Cigarettes per month among cigarette + cigar polyusers (600 vs. NH Black: 300; Hispanic: 150)*
- Hispanic adults had the highest intensity of use among cigarette + filtered cigar dual users:
  - Cigarettes per month (600 vs. NH White: 450; NH Black 180)*

CONCLUSION: Although NH Black adults had the highest prevalence of cigarette/cigar use, intensity of use was often highest among NH White and Hispanic users. These use pattern distinctions may further explain racial/ethnic disparities in tobacco-related health outcomes.

[*p<0.005]