



Racial Differences in the Association between U.S. Citizenship Status and Employment Status

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Introduction

- Immigrants are more likely to be unemployed than non-immigrants especially in times where the labor market is more competitive (Drinkwater, 2017).
- In many Western developed nations, immigration is negatively associated with employment in the short term, but positively associated with employment in the long term (Fromentin, 2013; Latif, 2015).
- Within the same skill group, immigrants have a higher probability to experience unemployment than citizens during times of economic depressions (Dustmann et al., 2010).

Research Questions

- Is one's citizenship status in the U.S. significantly associated with their employment status?
- Does this relationship differ between those of different racial backgrounds?

Methods

Sample

- Respondents (n=3901) were drawn from the first and fifth wave of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), a nationally representative sample of adolescents and their transitions to adulthood. This study was sampled between the years of 1994 to 2018.

Measures

- Immigration status was measured with the question "Were you born a U.S. citizen?" Possible responses include 0 (no) and 1 (yes).
- Participants' race was measured with subsections of the question "What is your race?" which identified respondents as White, Black, or Asian.
- Employment status was measured with the question "Are you currently working for pay?" This variable was coded dichotomously in terms of whether one was working or

not working (1=yes; 0=no, but have worked for pay in the past or no, have never worked for pay).

Results

Bivariate

- Chi-Square analysis showed that one's U.S. citizenship status was **not** significantly associated with their employment status independently ($\chi^2 = 0.17592$, $p = 0.6749$).
- There is a greater proportion of currently working individuals within those that are born a U.S. citizen but this is not a statistically significant difference (Figure 1).

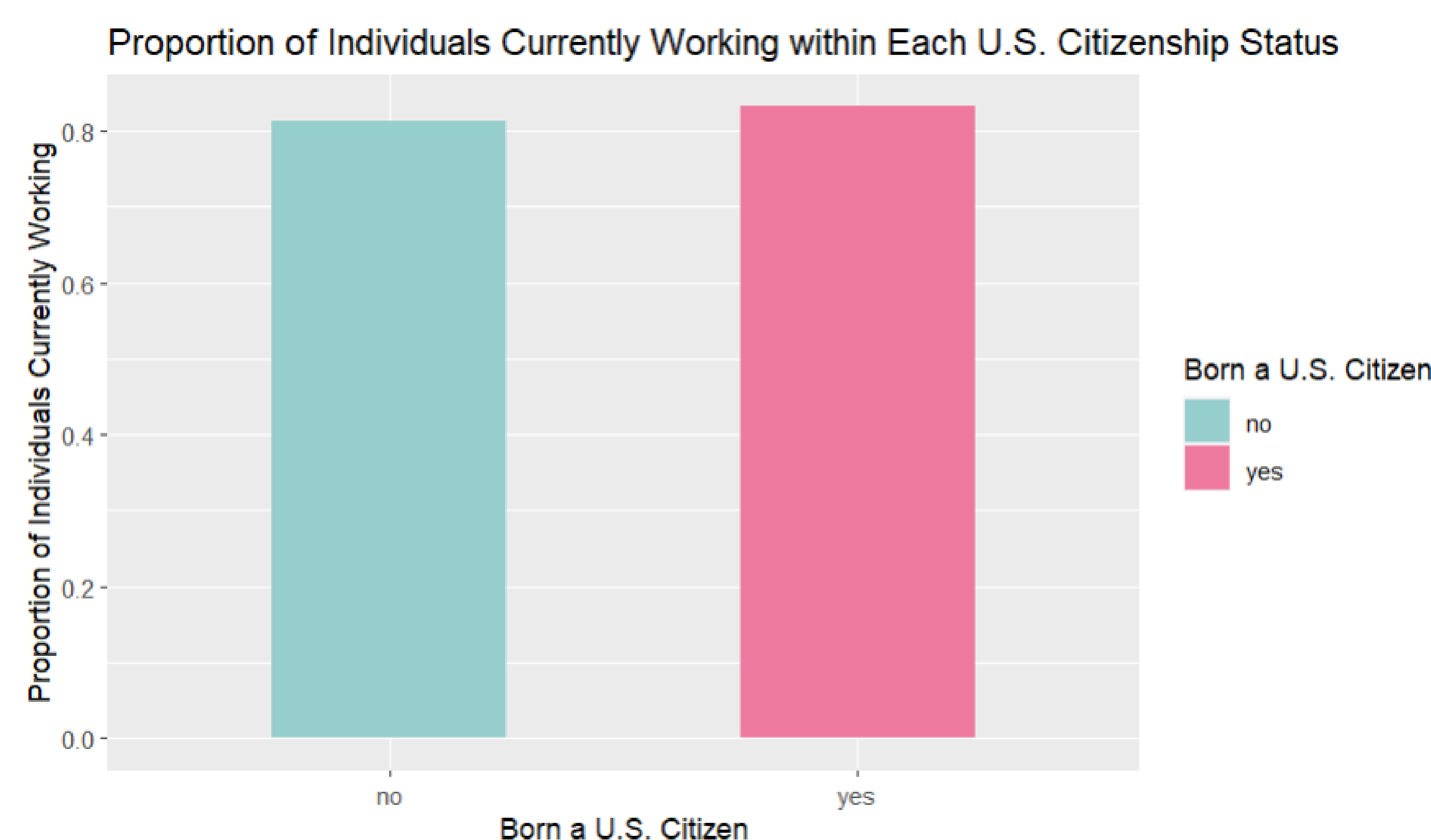


Figure 1: Proportion of Individuals Currently Working within Each U.S. Citizenship Status

Multivariate

- Logistic regression analyses (with race as a moderating variable) showed that one's U.S. citizenship status within race are **not** significantly associated with employment status ($p > 0.05$ for all variables).
- Logistic regression analyses showed that the races White and Black had approximately the same predicted probability of employment between those that are born a U.S. citizen and those that are not (Figure 2). It also showed that within the race Asian, the predicted probability of employment is

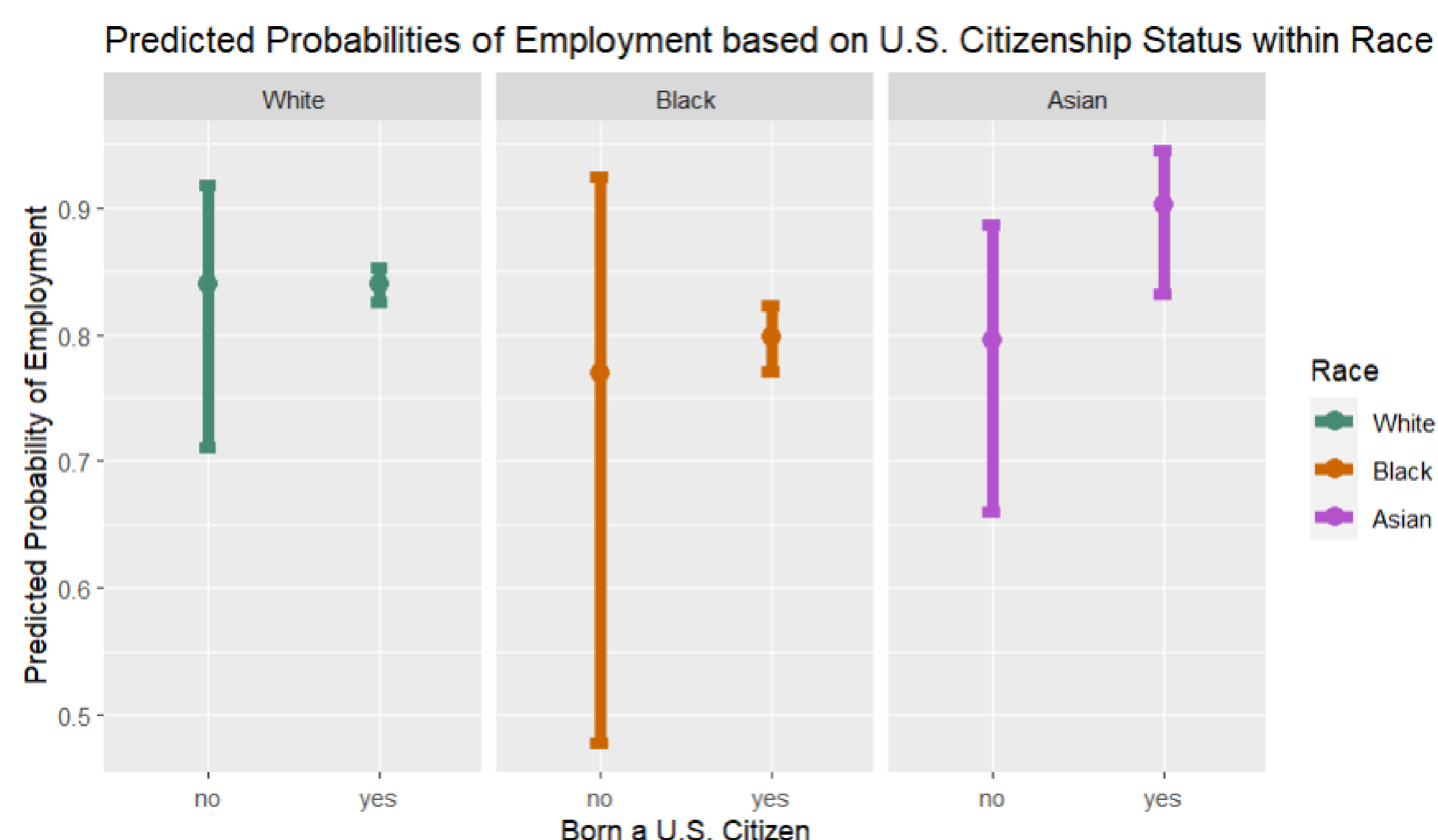


Figure 2: Predicted Probabilities of Employment based on U.S. Citizenship Status within Race

greater in those that are born in the U.S. than those that are not, but this is not a statistically significant difference (Figure 2).

Discussion

- There is no statistically significant outcomes to determine whether there is an association between U.S. citizenship status and employment status.
- However, results more accurate to the population may be revealed if there was a greater sample size of the races Black and Asian.
- These findings may contribute to political science research regarding differences in employment experiences among immigrant individuals and families in the U.S..

References

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