Diversity and Genetics
Black Infant Mortality

- Infant deaths account for 27% of excess mortality of blacks

- Nationally, black infant mortality more than twice white infant mortality rates

- In Omaha, black babies 4x more likely to die, 1 in 50 die before age 1
Black Infant Mortality

• In 2001, nationally 14 of every 1000 black babies died while 5.7 of every 1000 white babies died.

• Blacks account for 30% of all infant deaths though only make up 12% of the population.
Probable Causes for Mortality Discrepancy

- Low birth weight
- Older maternity age
- Late or no prenatal care
Genetic Connection?

• Can’t identify race by DNA

• *If there’s no genetic link to race and infant mortality, what are some possible causes?*
IQ

- On average, black IQ scores are 15 points lower than whites
- 18% of whites score lower than the black average IQ score.
- 11% of blacks score higher than the average score of whites
The Great IQ Debate

- Genetics not responsible for IQ difference
- 1970s twin study shows that differences are environmental
Discussion Questions

• *Is it detrimental to minorities to do genetic research about races? Implications?*

• *Why does the lack of genetic difference between races promote the decrease of prejudice, but increase the likelihood of discrimination of homosexuals?*
BREAK TIME!!
Gender and Genetics

Discussion questions from video

• *Can acknowledging differences make us more informed thus allow us to make better educational decisions?*

• *Does the pursuit of genetic information about the math difference between genders hamper the progress of obtaining female rights?*
Girls and Math: Brain Differences

- Horizontal component of Sylvian fissure is larger in the left hemisphere in males
Brain Differences

- **Splenium** (last 1/5 of corpus callosum) is more bulbous in females but tubular in males
- **Isthmus** (thin region in front of splenium) is larger in females
Brain Differences

• Number of neurons in auditory association cortex 11% greater in females

• Might relate to the connection of cortical neurons, causing behavioral consequences
Brain Differences

- Greater lateralization in males than females
- Males use the left hemisphere most
- Women generally use both hemispheres
Math Difference

• Experiment shows that boys do better than girls in math on SAT’s

• Boys & girls do equally as well verbally

• Test of high school seniors showed that boys do better than girls in math
Math Difference

• Beckwith says the math difference behavior is too complex to be genetic

• *Is it feasible to think that math difference is mostly genetic?*
Altered Teaching Styles

• Single-sex Math Classes

• Possibly more comfortable?
Altered Teaching Styles

• *Based on what you’ve read and experienced, do you think single sex math classes would be beneficial if it is determined that the difference is genetic? What if it is not genetic?*
Discussion Question

- Will determining what skills women are supposedly genetically more fit to undertake, influence the job market?
Discussion Question

• After completing the exercise at the beginning of class, do you believe that the differences highlighted are genetically related?
Discussion Questions

• If they are not genetic why does discrimination exist?

• If so, will discrimination continue to increase?
Commentary Question!!

- *Will acknowledging genetic differences (if confirmed) between ethnicities and genders deny rights and increase prejudice?*