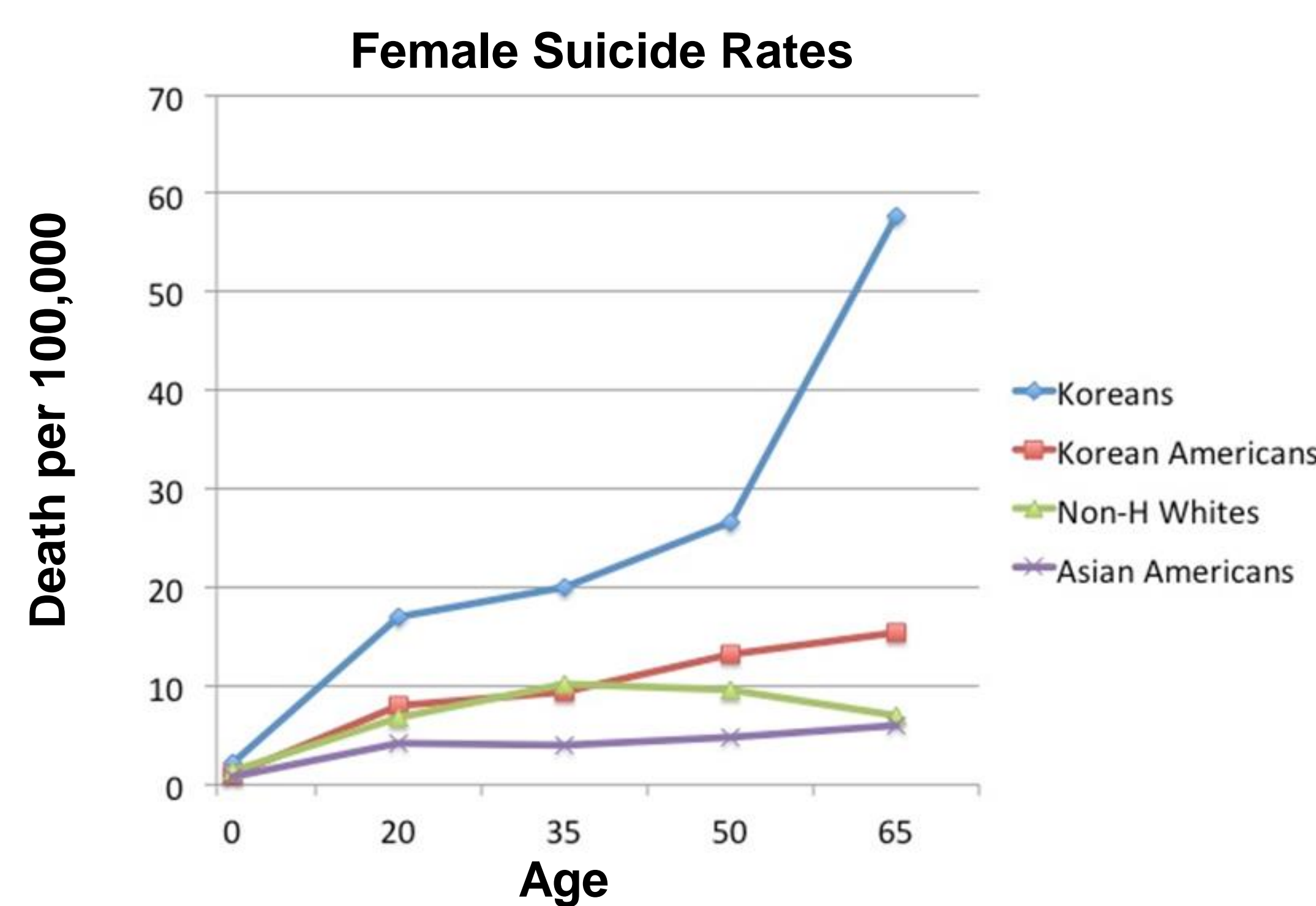
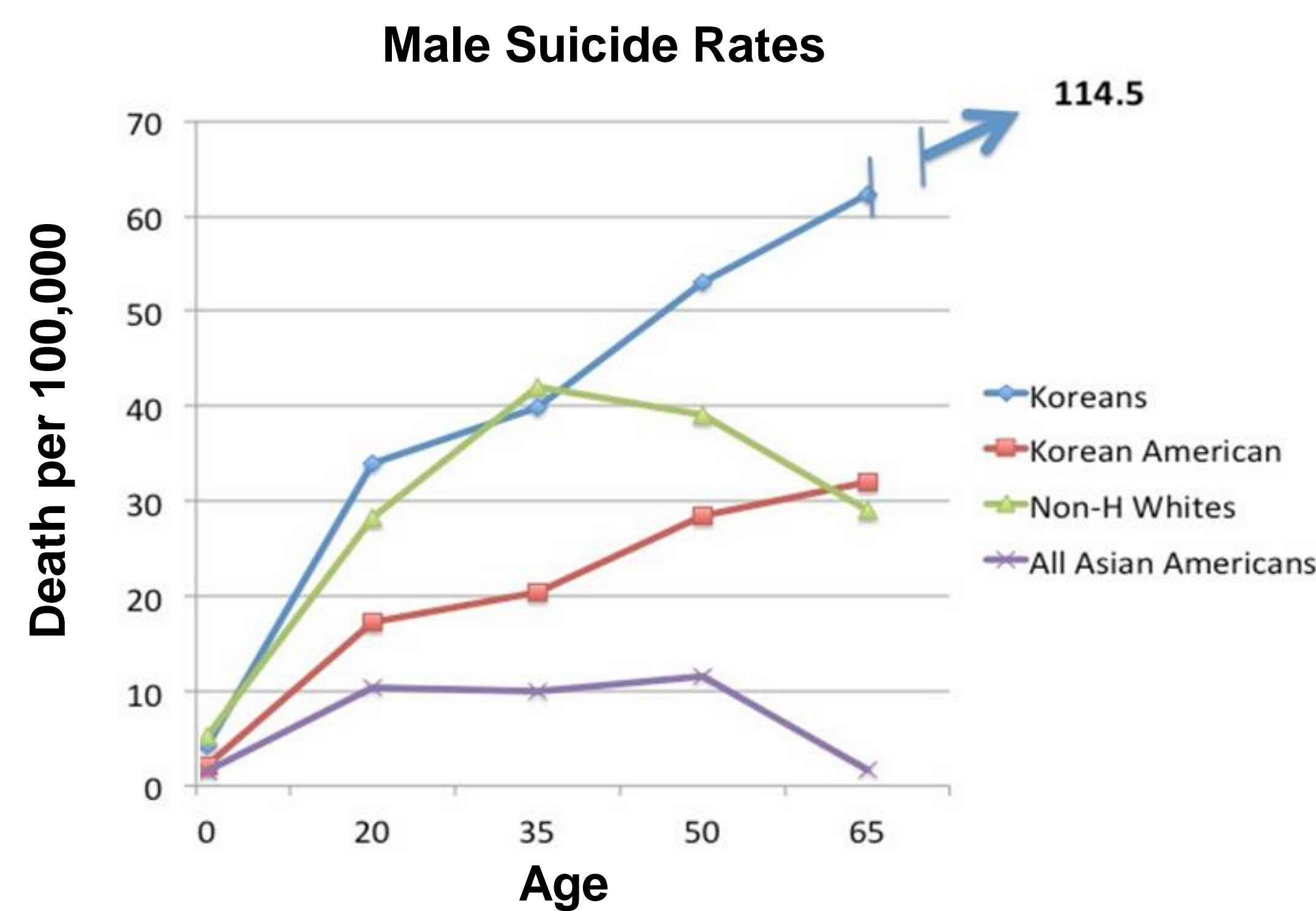


## Introduction

Suicide is a global epidemic and poses enormous public health challenges. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), suicide is responsible for taking the lives of 800,000 individuals worldwide each year<sup>[1]</sup>.

Among the WHO member states, South Korea ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of suicide rates at 26.9 per 100,000<sup>[2]</sup> and South Korea has seen a consistent rise in rates over the decades, increasing by 111% from 1986 to 2005<sup>[3]</sup>.

Social capital refers to the types of personal connections an individual has and the quality of those connections. Numerous studies have shown a strong association between an increase in one's social capital and overall health. However, few researchers have explored the relationship between social capital and suicidality. This study will examine the association between social capital and suicide, assessing whether social capital is a protective factor against suicidal tendencies among different generations (gen 1 and gen 2) of Koreans.



Source: Kung, A. et al. (2016)

## Purpose

To explore the influence of social capital on suicide, in order to improve preventative care and methods of risk assessment.

## Research Questions

**RQ1:** Does the quantity of structural social capital protect against suicidal tendencies?

**RQ2:** Does the quality of cognitive social capital protect against suicidal tendencies?

**RQ3:** What are the relationships between generational status (gen1 and gen 2) and suicidal tendencies?

## Methodology

### Participants

- U.S. born and South Korean participants
- Ages 18 and over

### Survey

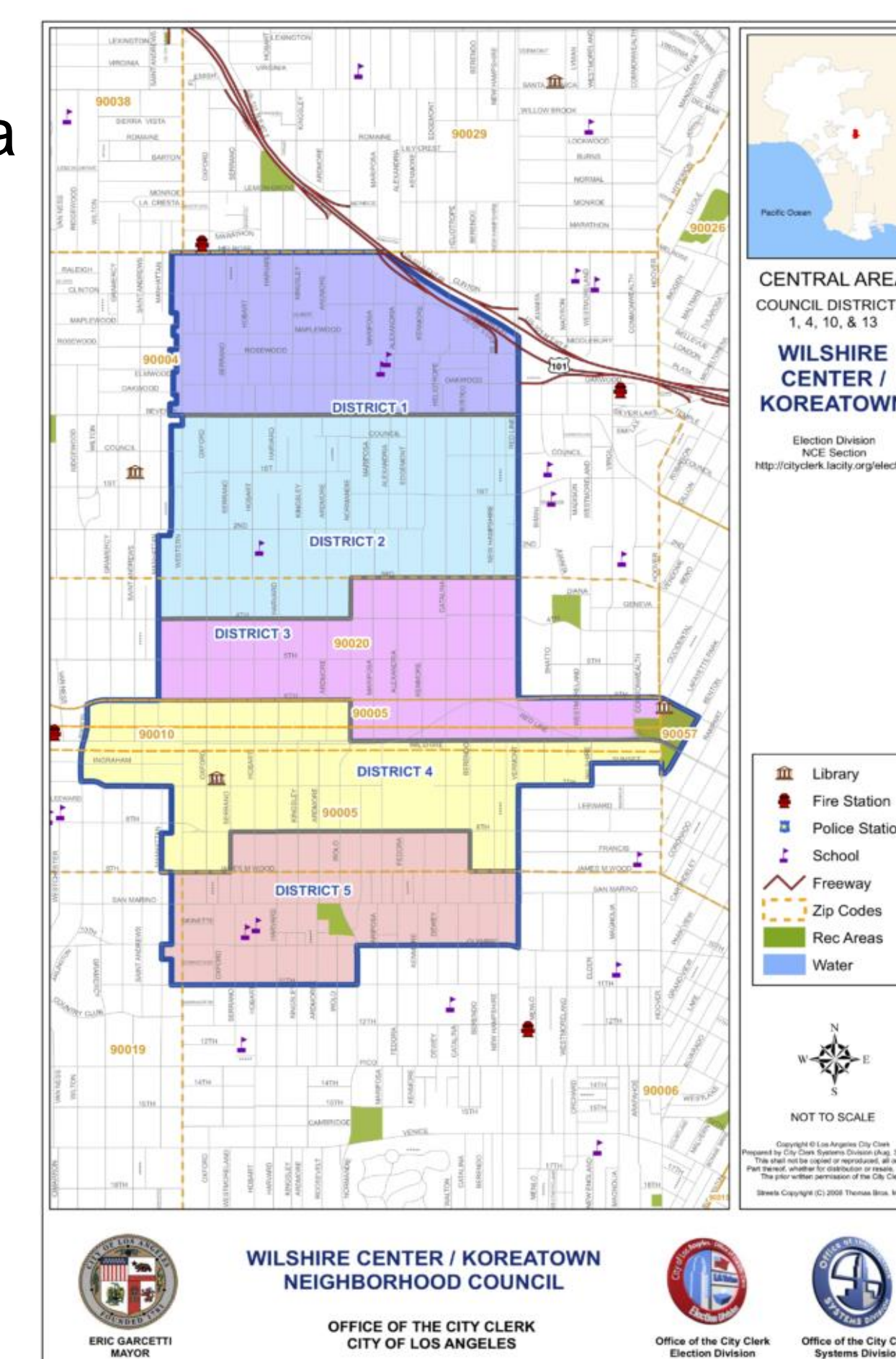
- Demographics questions
- Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (Kohout et al., 1993)
- The Suicide Ideation Scale (Rudd, 1989)
- Suicide attempt questions
- US General Social Survey (National Opinion Research Center)
- Adapted Social Capital Assessment Tool (Harpham et al., 2002)

### Recruitment and Location

- Koreatown in Los Angeles, California
- Strategic recruitment sites
- Snowball sampling



Source: Los Angeles-Koreatown



Source: Boundary Map

## Expected Results

### Theoretical Basis

The theoretical basis used to predict these results is Thomas Joiner's Interpersonal-Psychological Theory of Suicide. This theory claims that when an individual feels like a burden upon others and does not feel like they belong within a social group (family, community, etc.), they are more likely to experience suicidal tendencies.

### Structural Social Capital and Suicidal Tendencies

It's expected that with increased structural social capital, lower rates of suicidality will be experienced. Structural social capital refers to connections based on memberships and organizational participations. With increased participation within a community or organization, an individual is more likely to feel a sense of belonging and purpose.

### Cognitive Social Capital and Suicidal Tendencies

It's expected that with increased cognitive social capital, individuals will experience less suicidality. Cognitive social capital refers to the quality of connections one has, such as the degree of trust and strength of bonds formed. If an individual feels that the relationships they have are genuine and robust, they are more likely to feel a strong sense of belonging.

### Generational Status and Suicidal Tendencies

Since generation 1 Koreans are individuals who have immigrated from Korea, as opposed to generation 2 Koreans who were born in the U.S., they are likely to have lower levels of social capital. Hence, they are expected to have higher suicidal tendencies compared to generation 2 Koreans.

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