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The diversity Wave: A meta-analysis of the native-born white response to ethnic diversity

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**The Diversity Wave:  
A meta-analysis of the native-born white response to ethnic diversity\***

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**Abstract.** Does ethnic diversity increase or reduce white threat perceptions? Meta-analyses help orient a field and communicate findings to policymakers. We report the results of a meta-analysis of studies measuring the relationship between ethnic context and both opposition to immigration and support for anti-immigration parties. Our analysis attempts to be exhaustive, and is based on 171 post-1995 studies averaging 25,000 observations each, a knowledge base of over 4 million data points. We find a linear association between ethnic change and elevated threat. However, for diversity levels, the relationship between ethnic context and threat is nonlinear. This takes the form of a 'wave', with higher diversity predicting threat responses at the smallest and largest scales, whereas in units of 5,000-10,000 people (such as tracts or neighbourhoods), diversity is associated with reduced threat.

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