



Differences in intelligence between ethnic minorities and Han in China



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ABSTRACT

This paper summarizes 22 studies of the IQs of 28 non-Han ethnic minorities compared with the Han in the People's Republic of China. The Han obtained higher average IQs than all of the non-Han ethnic minorities.

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1. Introduction

In a number of multiethnic countries there are differences in the average intelligence of different ethnic populations (Lynn, 2006, 2008). In this paper we review studies of the IQs of twenty eight of the 55 officially recognised non-Han ethnic minorities, compared with the Han, in the People's Republic of China. The Han are the majority comprising 91.6% of the population in the 2000 census, with the non-Han ethnic minorities comprising the remaining 8.4%. The Han appear to have a higher average IQ than the non-Han ethnic minorities, since it has been reported that

across thirty-one regions of China the percentage of Han in the population is significantly associated ($r = .59$) with the average IQ of the region (Lynn & Cheng, 2013). However, this study does not give any information on the IQs of the individual ethnic minorities.

2. Intelligence of ethnic minorities and Han

This review of studies of the IQs of non-Han ethnic minorities compared with the Han was carried out thoroughly through the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) search engine. This produced 22 studies, all published in Chinese, for 28 ethnic minorities. The results are summarized in Table 1. This gives for each study the numbers of ethnic minorities and Han, the ages of the samples, the tests, the

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Table 1
Studies of the IQs of ethnic minorities and Han in China.

	Ethnic minority	Ns Minority/Han	Age	Test	Minority IQ Mean and SD	Han IQ Mean and SD	<i>d</i>	Reference				
1	Tibetan	30/30	9	RSPM	16.07 ± 5.59	23.53 ± 8.66	1.05 ^{***}	Zhao, Tong, and Wan (1988)				
		30/30	11		21.10 ± 10.25	33.97 ± 9.15	1.34 ^{***}					
		30/30	13		31.33 ± 11.25	38.07 ± 8.49	.68 [*]					
		30/30	15		40.52 ± 6.81	46.67 ± 6.04	.96 ^{***}					
2	Hui	30/30	9	RSPM	21.92 ± 9.93	24.71 ± 8.31	.31	Zhao et al. (1988)				
		30/30	11		30.87 ± 8.25	30.72 ± 11.58	-.02					
		30/30	13		38.63 ± 7.24	39.24 ± 9.15	.07					
		30/30	15		41.71 ± 6.50	44.70 ± 7.95	.41					
3	Dongxiang	30/30	9	RSPM	22.40 ± 9.94	24.71 ± 8.31	.25	Zhao et al. (1988)				
		30/30	11		30.38 ± 9.78	30.72 ± 11.58	.03					
		30/30	13		36.12 ± 8.67	39.24 ± 9.15	.35					
		30/30	15		43.12 ± 6.80	44.70 ± 7.95	.21					
4	Tibetan	15/15	7	Verbal reasoning	0.94 ± 1.52	3.14 ± 1.71	1.36 ^{**}	Zhao, Wan, and Ma (1989)				
		15/15	8		1.59 ± 1.69	4.19 ± 1.84	1.47 ^{**}					
		15/15	9		3.97 ± 1.65	5.29 ± 1.70	.79 [*]					
5	Dongxiang	15/15	7	Verbal reasoning	1.49 ± 1.70	3.48 ± 2.09	1.05 ^{**}	Zhao et al. (1989)				
		15/15	8		2.03 ± 1.56	3.66 ± 2.20	.87 [*]					
		15/15	9		4.54 ± 1.36	5.69 ± 2.18	.65					
6	Baoan (Bonan)	15/15	7	Verbal reasoning	2.13 ± 2.32	2.60 ± 1.62	.24	Zhao et al. (1989)				
		15/15	8		3.92 ± 1.99	3.60 ± 1.05	-.21					
		15/15	9		5.09 ± 1.33	4.69 ± 0.96	-.35					
7	Yugur	15/15	7	Verbal reasoning	1.98 ± 1.78	3.25 ± 1.64	.74 [*]	Zhao et al. (1989)				
		15/15	8		3.39 ± 2.01	4.28 ± 1.57	.50					
		15/15	9		4.58 ± 1.30	5.40 ± 1.41	.61					
8	Hasake (Kazakh)	15/15	7	Verbal reasoning	1.37 ± 1.83	3.23 ± 1.61	1.08 ^{**}	Zhao et al. (1989)				
		15/15	8		1.92 ± 1.94	3.82 ± 1.72	1.04 ^{**}					
		15/15	9		3.93 ± 1.92	5.36 ± 1.81	.77 [*]					
9	Dongxiang	20/20	9	Verbal reasoning	6.42 ± 3.56	10.60 ± 2.69	1.34 [*]	Yang and Liu (1992)				
		20/20	10		8.80 ± 5.15	15.20 ± 2.86	1.60 [*]					
		20/20	11		11.60 ± 3.24	12.40 ± 4.10	.22					
		20/20	12		13.70 ± 3.28	15.67 ± 3.28	.60					
10	Mongol	1481/3214	5–14	CRT	96.32 ± 11.18	101.59 ± 12.16	.45 ^{**}	Na & O (1994)				
11	Mongol	150/151	5–6	C-WPPSI	94.9 ± 11.1	99.1 ± 13.5	.43 ^{**}	Yang and Gong (1994)				
12	Miao	46/29	7–11	Wechsler	95.09 ± 10.08	104.14 ± 15.19	.72 ^{**}	Cheng et al. (1995)				
13	Tujia	129/29	7–11	Wechsler	100.70 ± 14.24	104.14 ± 15.19	.23 [*]	Cheng et al. (1995)				
14	Hui	1025/7344	5	RSPM	15.7 ± 4.8	17.5 ± 4.7	.38 [#]	Ji, O, and Sunuodula (1995)				
		6	15.9 ± 4.4		20.5 ± 7.8	.75						
		7	23.3 ± 9.0		26.7 ± 10.6	.35						
		8	30.5 ± 12.0		33.2 ± 11.9	.23						
		9	37.0 ± 11.9		38.7 ± 11.6	.14						
		10	41.4 ± 11.0		44.6 ± 11.0	.29						
		11	46.4 ± 9.6		48.7 ± 10.1	.23						
		12	47.9 ± 11.1		51.6 ± 10.4	.34						
		13	51.1 ± 13.1		55.0 ± 6.2	.40						
		14	51.5 ± 10.9		55.0 ± 9.7	.34						
		15	54.4 ± 8.7		56.4 ± 8.3	.24						
		16	57.7 ± 8.1		57.9 ± 8.6	.02						
		15	Hasake		1728/7344	7	RSPM		18.5 ± 5.3	26.7 ± 10.6	1.03 ^{**}	Ji et al. (1995)
					8	21.4 ± 7.9			33.2 ± 11.9	1.19 ^{**}		
9	24.0 ± 10.0			38.7 ± 11.6	1.36 ^{**}							
10	27.4 ± 12.3			44.6 ± 11.0	1.48 ^{**}							
11	31.5 ± 12.4			48.7 ± 10.1	1.53 ^{**}							
12	37.8 ± 13.5			51.6 ± 10.4	1.15 ^{**}							
13	33.2 ± 14.4			55.0 ± 6.2	2.12 ^{**}							
14	42.0 ± 12.5			55.0 ± 9.7	1.17 ^{**}							
15	42.2 ± 11.3			56.4 ± 8.3	1.45 ^{**}							
16	44.0 ± 11.0			57.9 ± 8.6	1.42 ^{**}							
16	Kyrgyz	360/7344	7	RSPM	18.5 ± 6.1	26.7 ± 10.6	.98 ^{**}	Ji et al. (1995)				
		8	17.9 ± 4.4		33.2 ± 11.9	1.88 ^{**}						
		9	26.7 ± 12.1		38.7 ± 11.6	1.01 ^{**}						
		10	31.3 ± 10.9		44.6 ± 11.0	1.21 ^{**}						
		11	33.1 ± 12.7		48.7 ± 10.1	1.37 ^{**}						
		12	35.6 ± 11.1		51.6 ± 10.4	1.49 ^{**}						
		13	38.9 ± 12.9		55.0 ± 6.2	1.69 ^{**}						
		14	38.8 ± 14.8		55.0 ± 9.7	1.32 ^{**}						
		15	42.3 ± 13.7		56.4 ± 8.3	1.28 ^{**}						

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