



# Nature, nurture and complex phenotypes



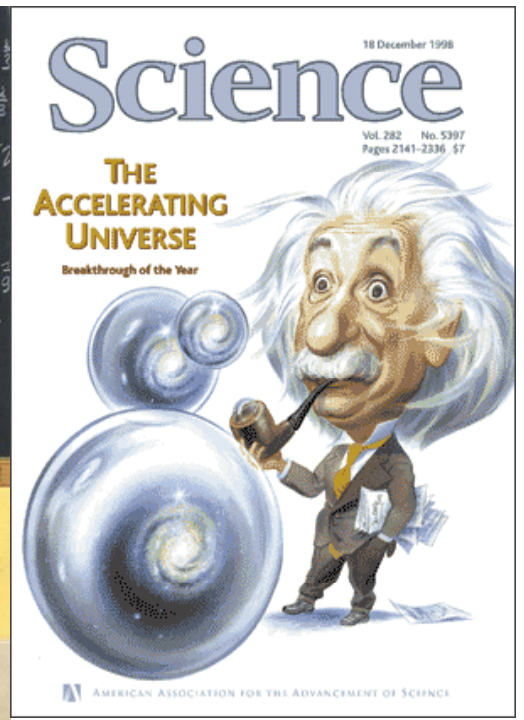
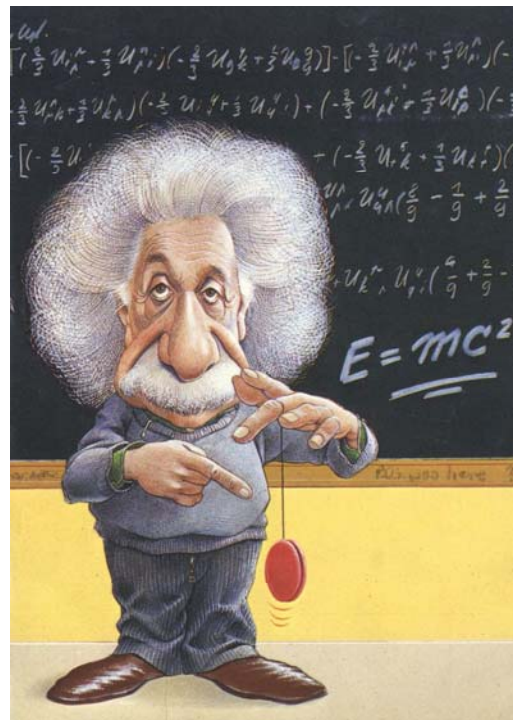
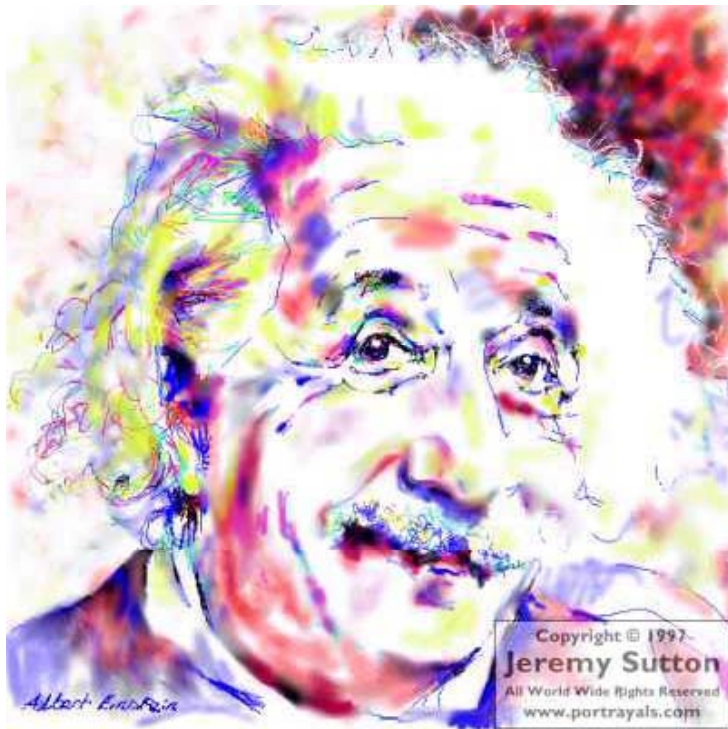
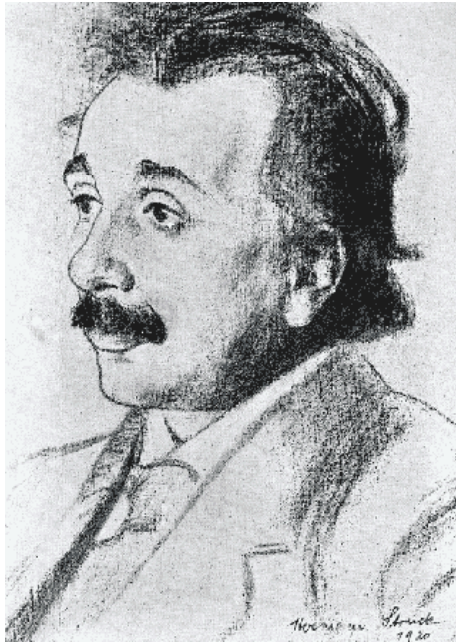
*Andrey Rzhetsky*

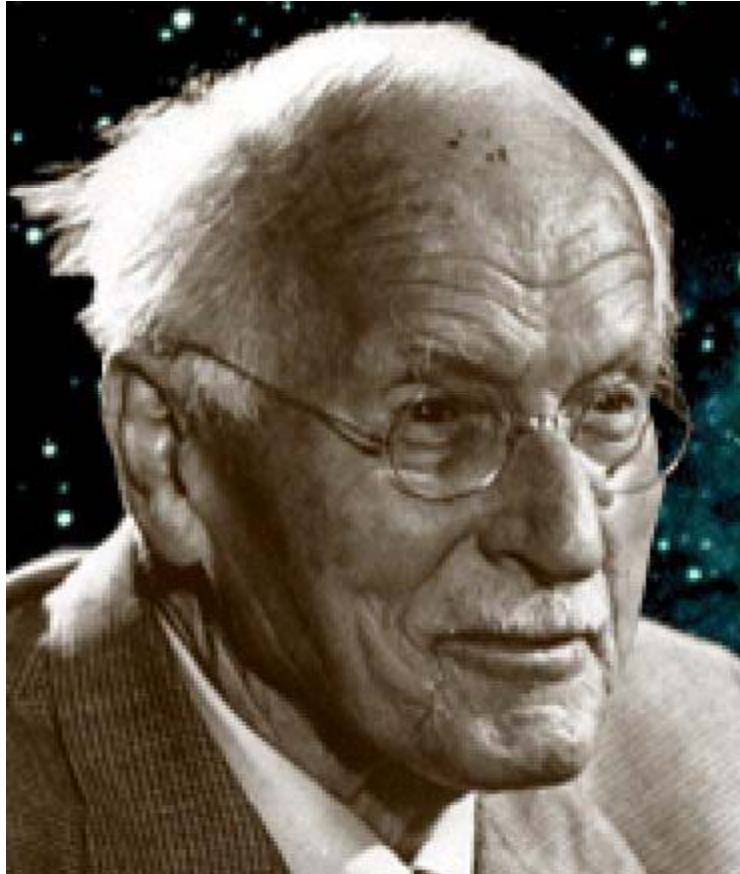




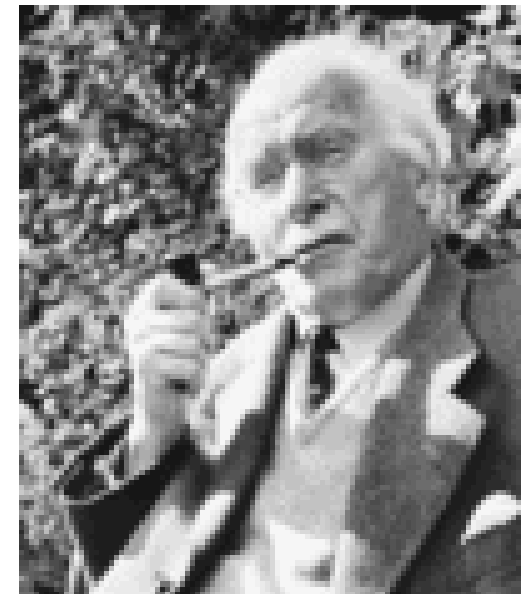
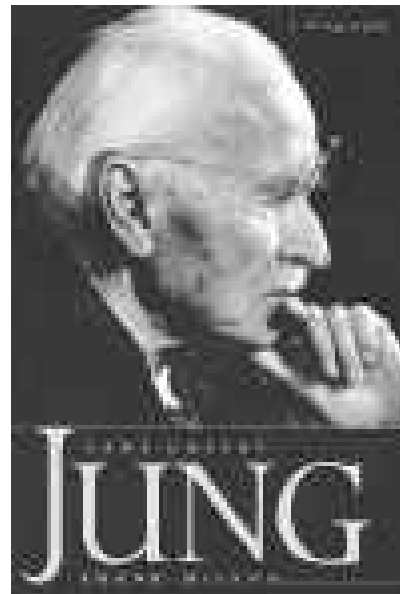
James Joyce



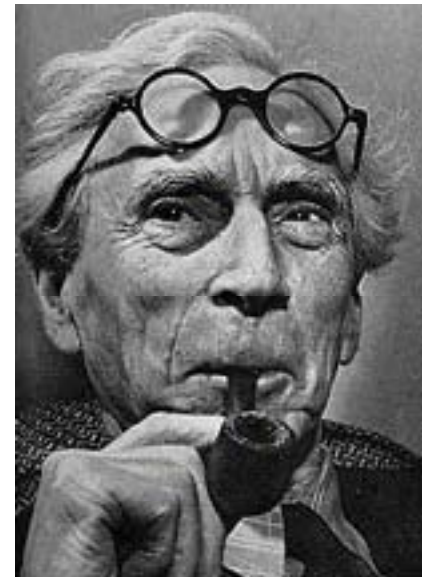
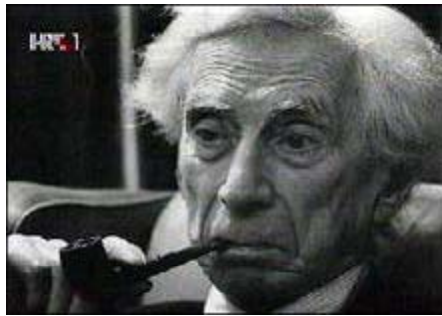




Carl Gustav Jung

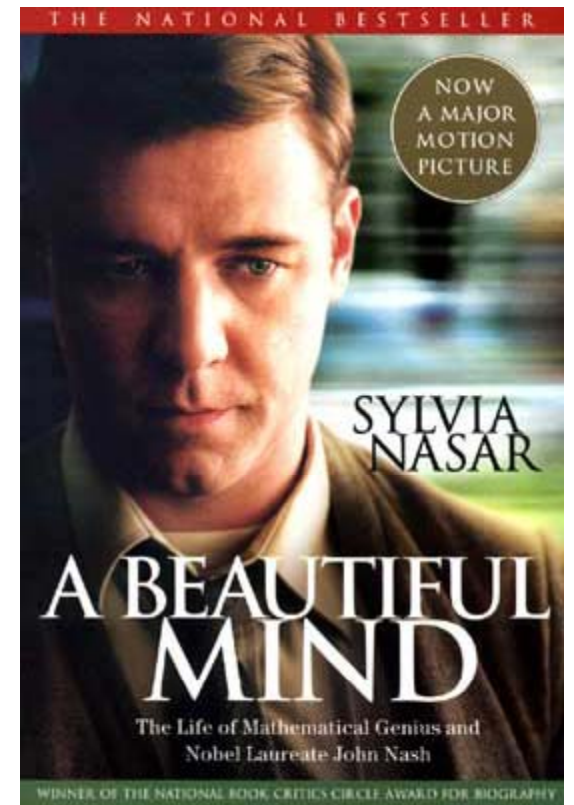


# Bertrand Russell



What is common among them?





...Schizophrenia affecting one of the close  
relatives

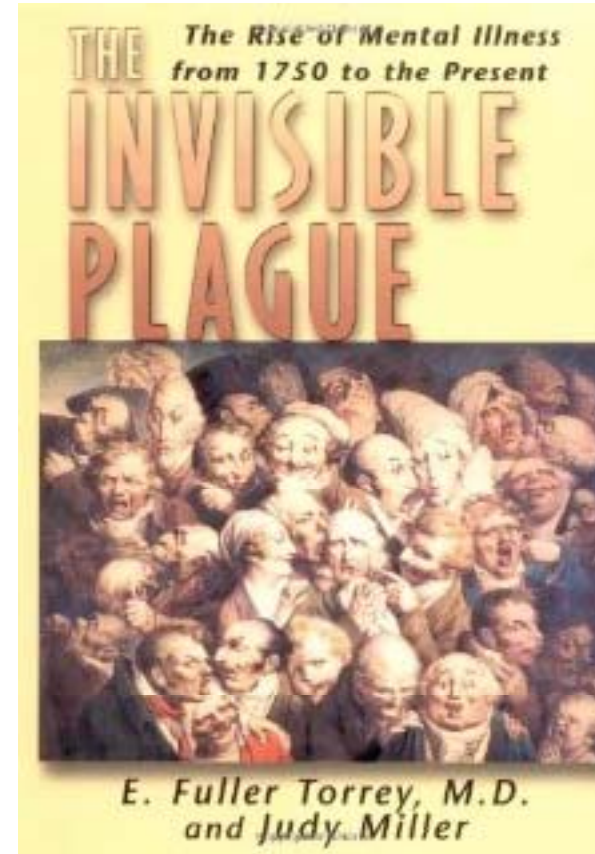
# The invisible plague

Steady rise  
of prevalence  
of neurodevelopmental  
disorders during  
the last 260  
years

Autism

Bipolar disorder

Schizophrenia

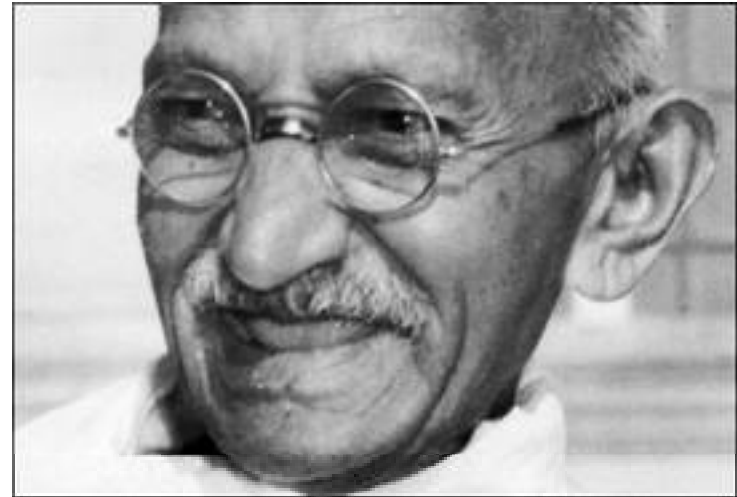




Hypertimic,  
autoimmune Addison's disease,  
steroid-induced bipolar disorder



# Depression



# Bipolar



# Depression/bipolar





# Depression



# Bipolar disorder

Hunted by a “black dog”  
of depression





A FIRST-RATE  
MADNESS

UNCOVERING THE LINKS BETWEEN  
LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL ILLNESS

NASSIR GHAEMI

Book's main thesis:

“Insanity” was strength of great leaders, rather than weakness, directly contributing to their success

Genetics?

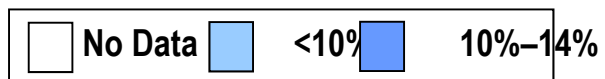
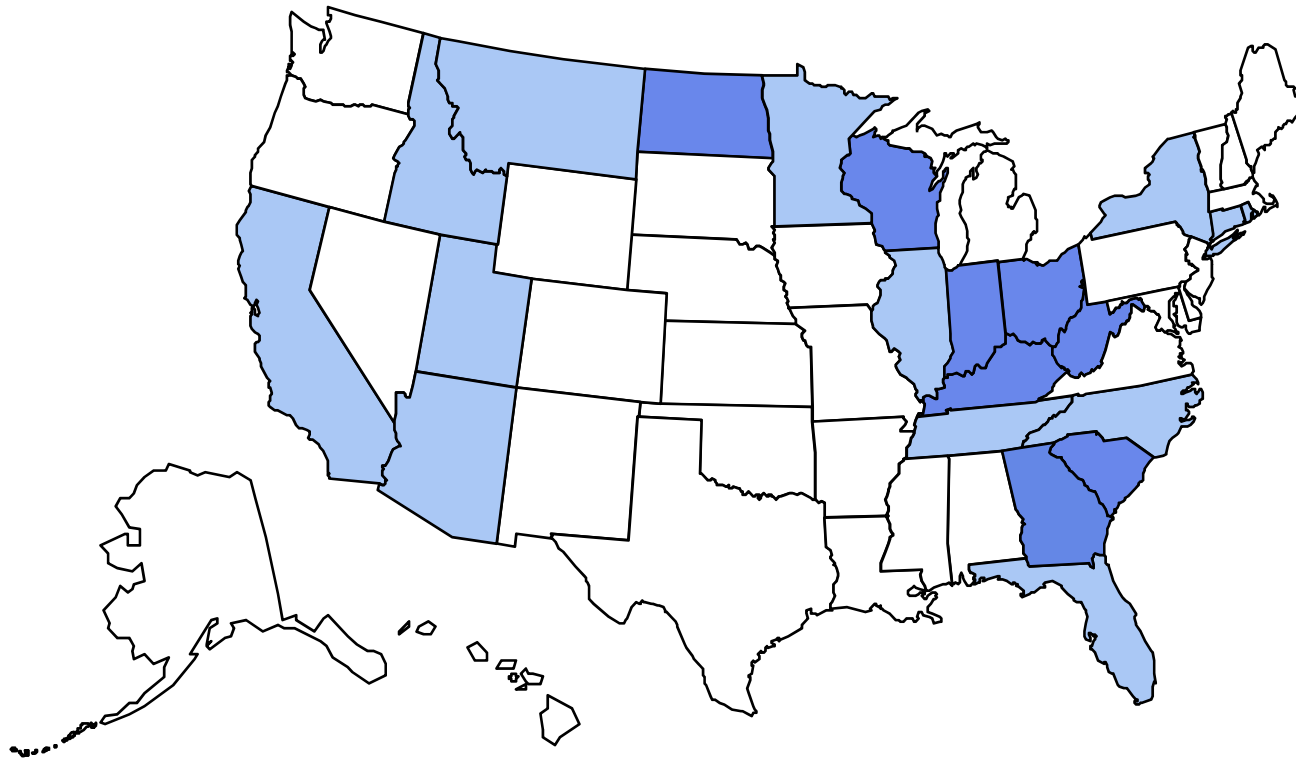


(OBESITY TRENDS in the USA  
Source: CDC)

# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1985

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)

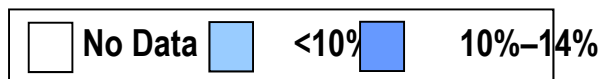
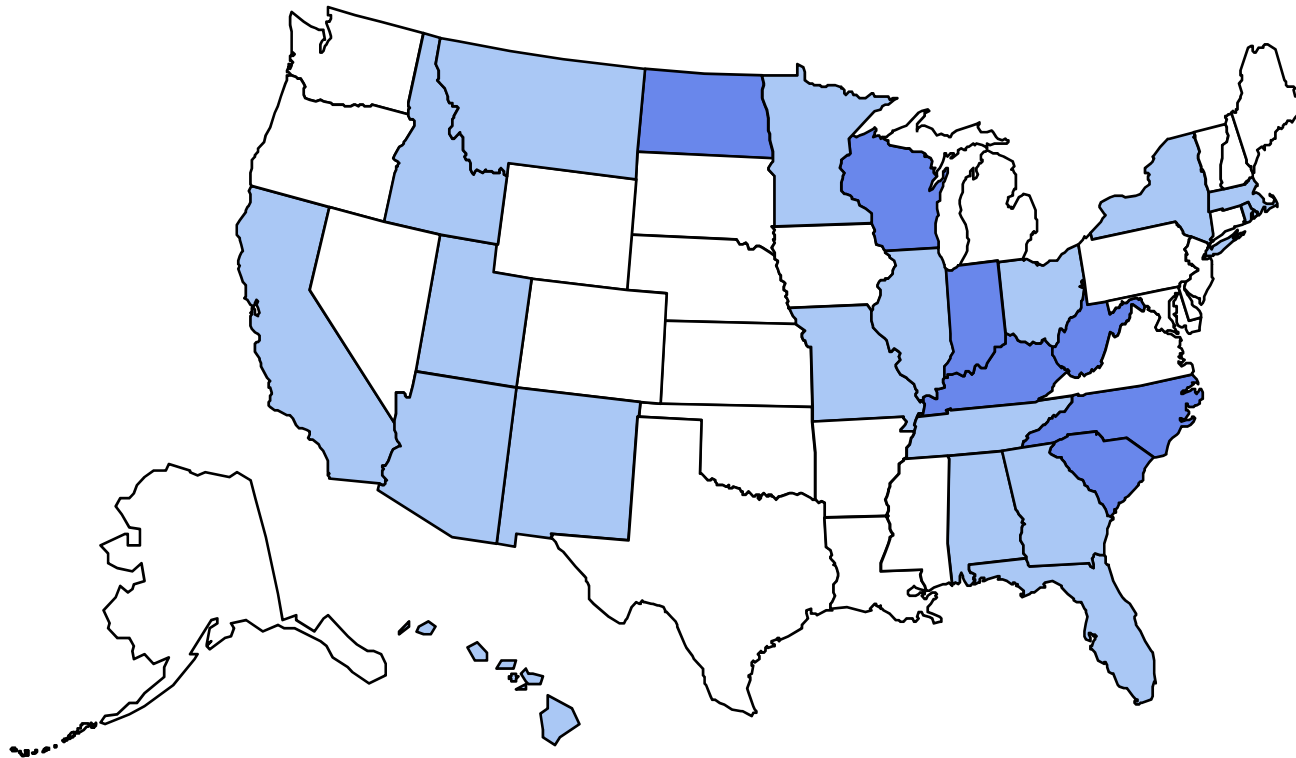




# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1986

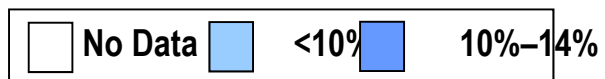
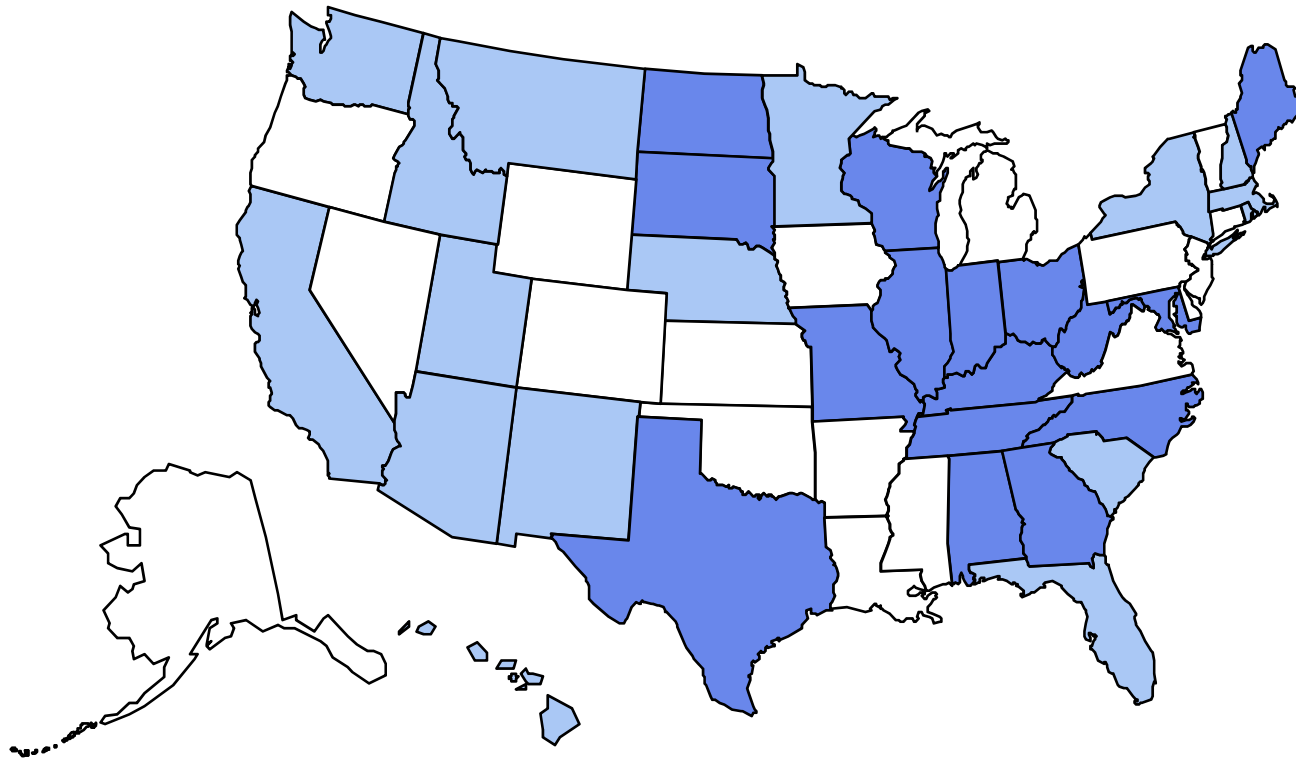
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1987

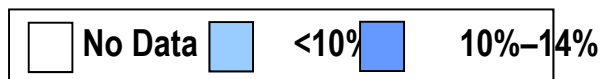
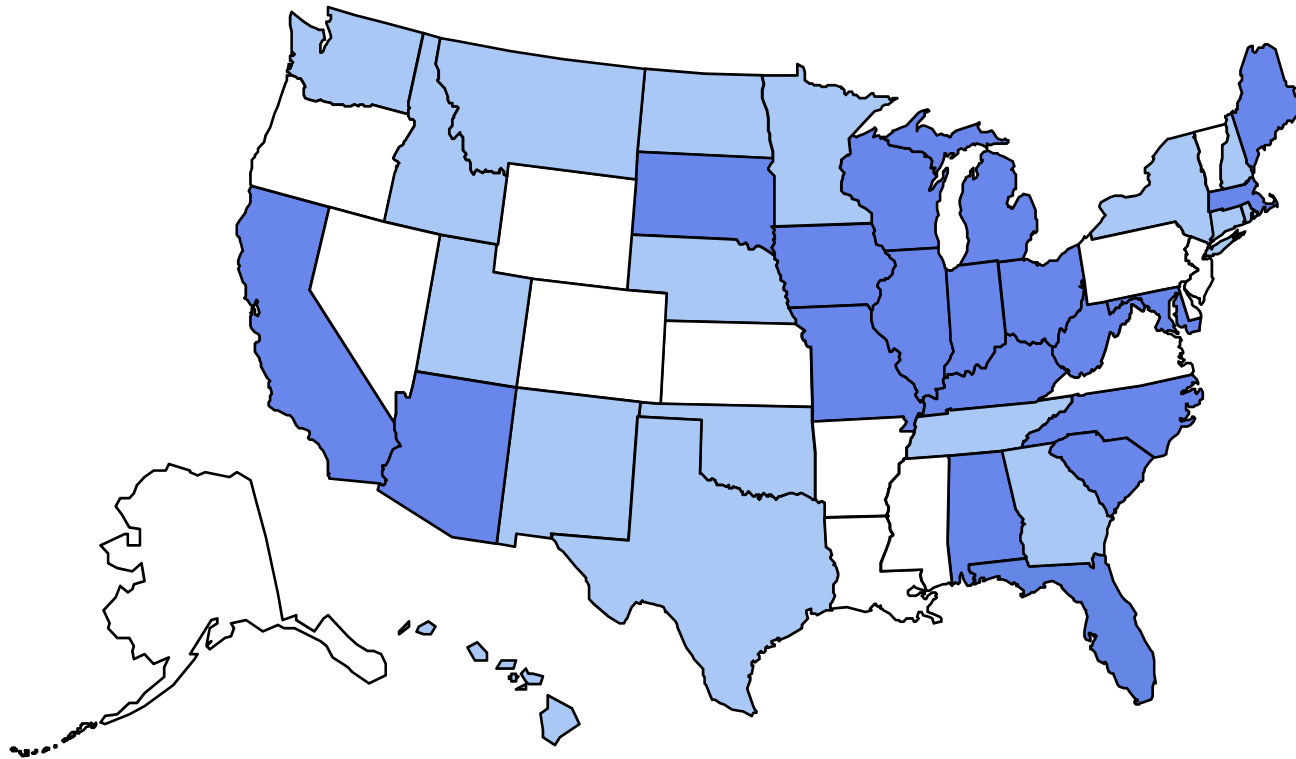
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1988

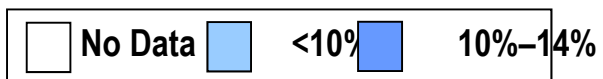
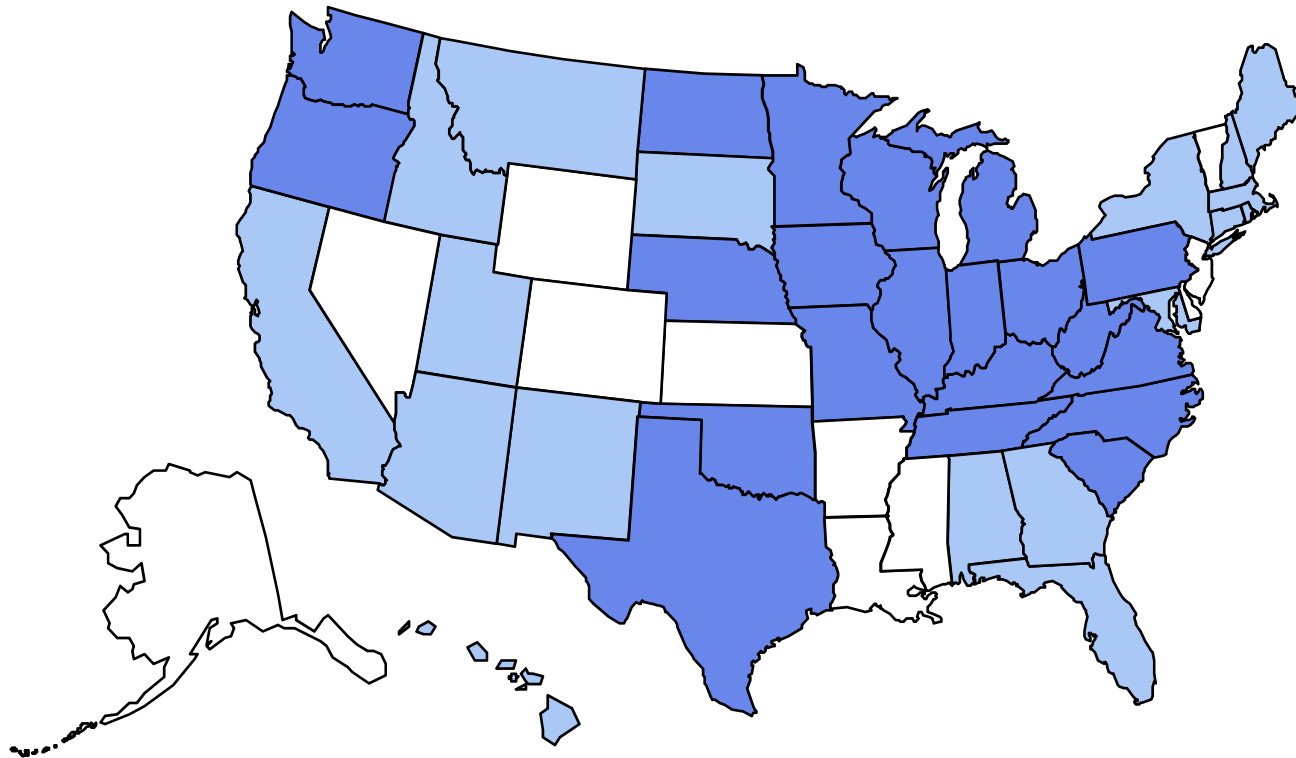
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1989

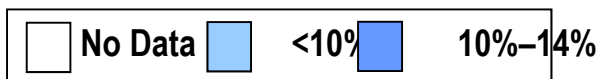
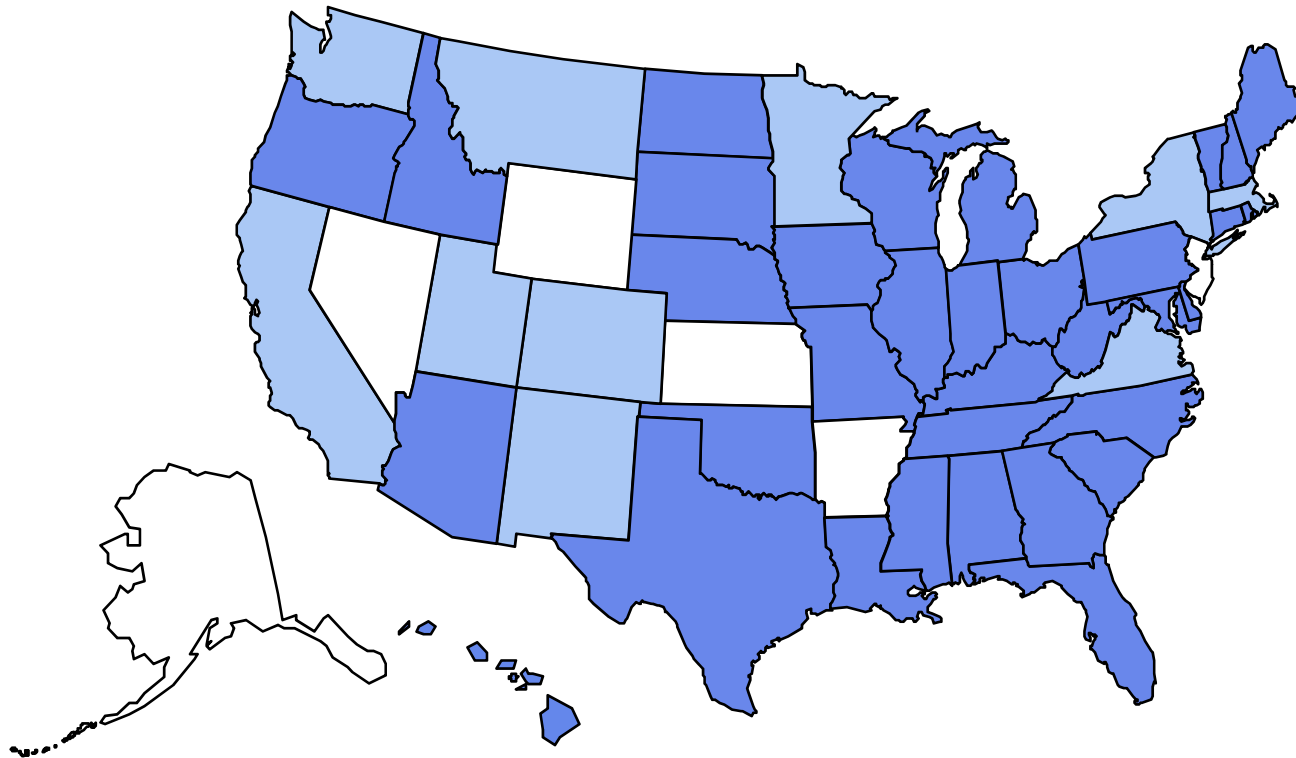
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1990

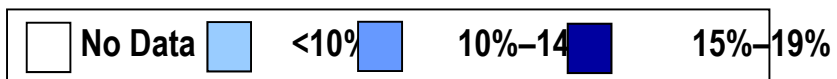
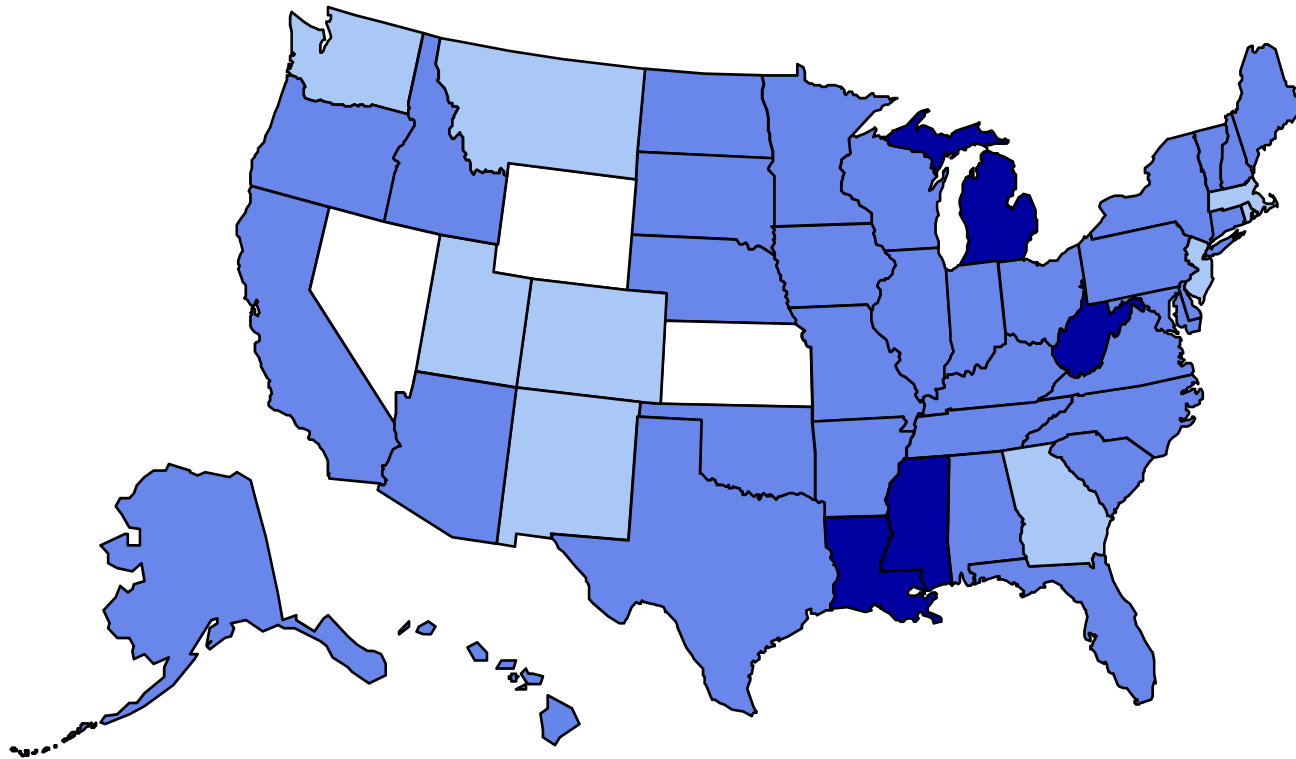
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1991

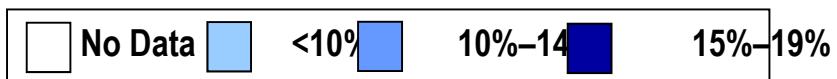
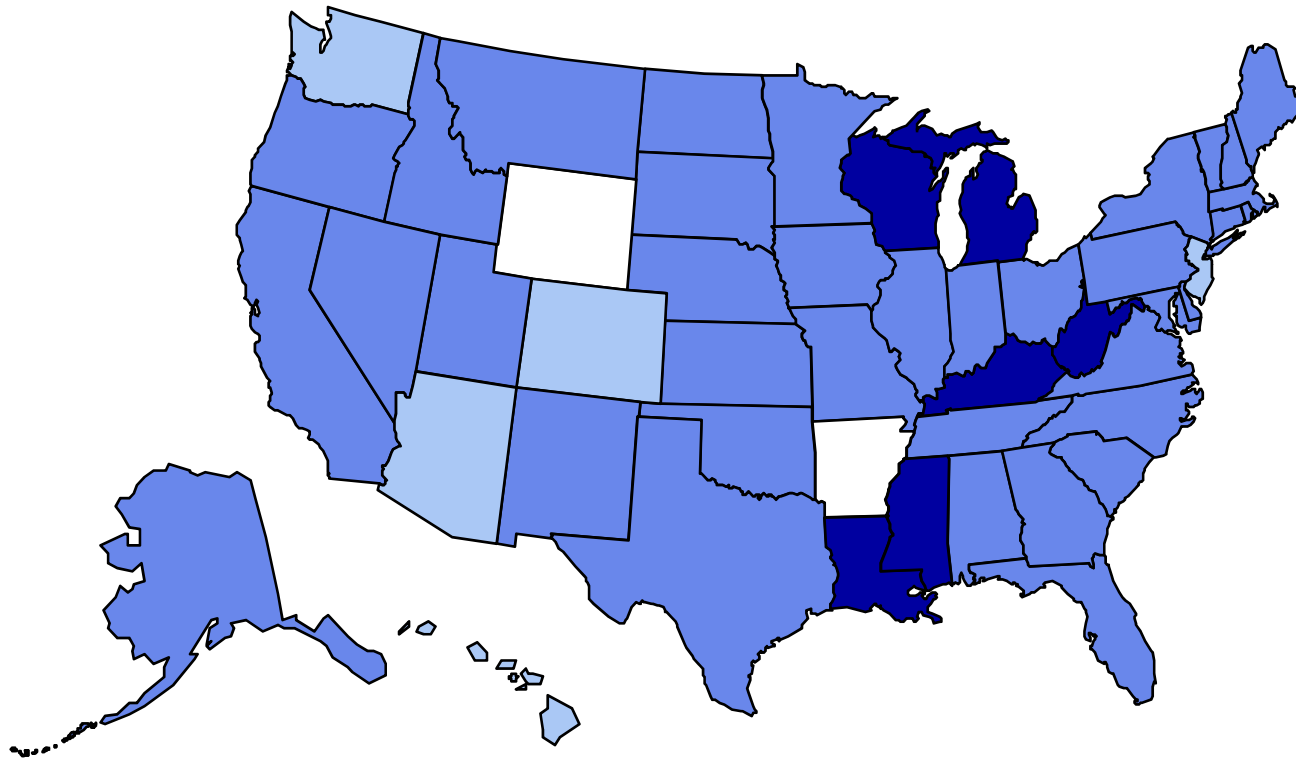
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1992

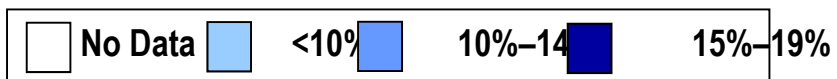
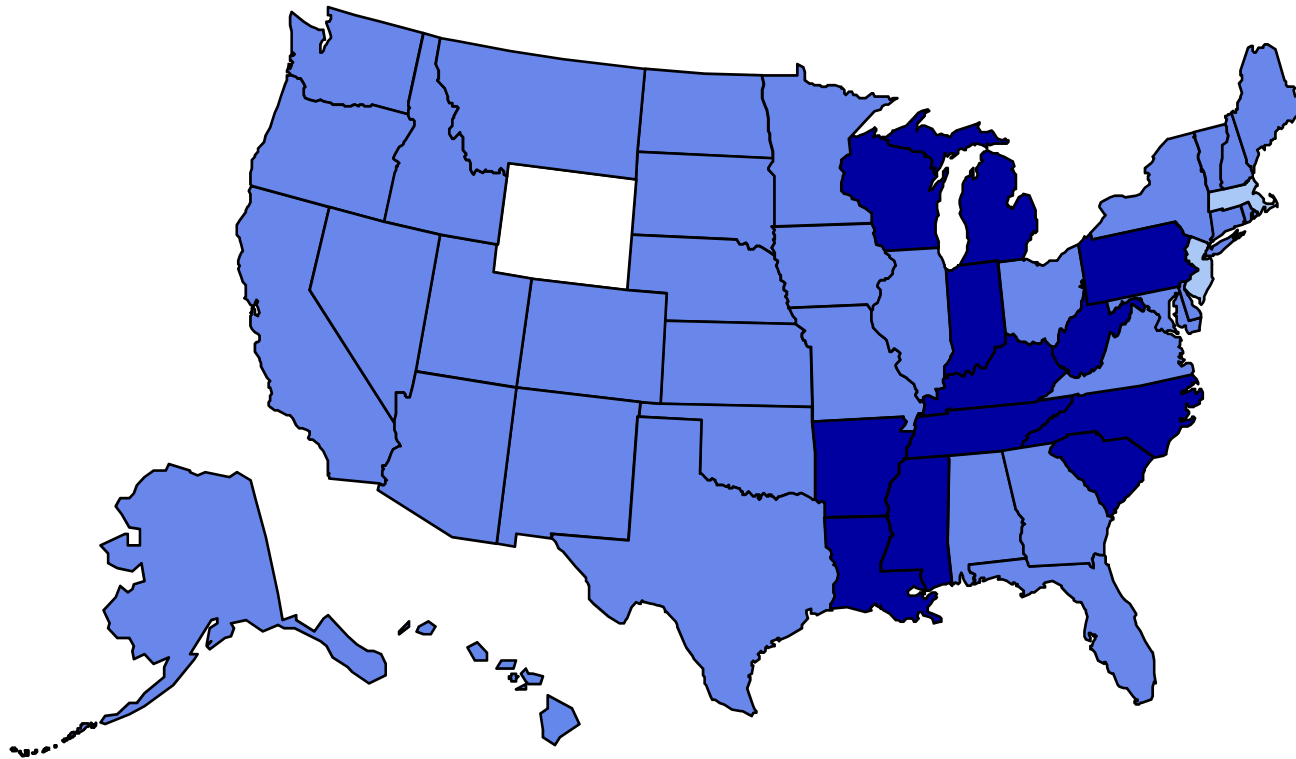
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1993

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)

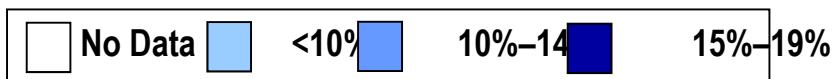
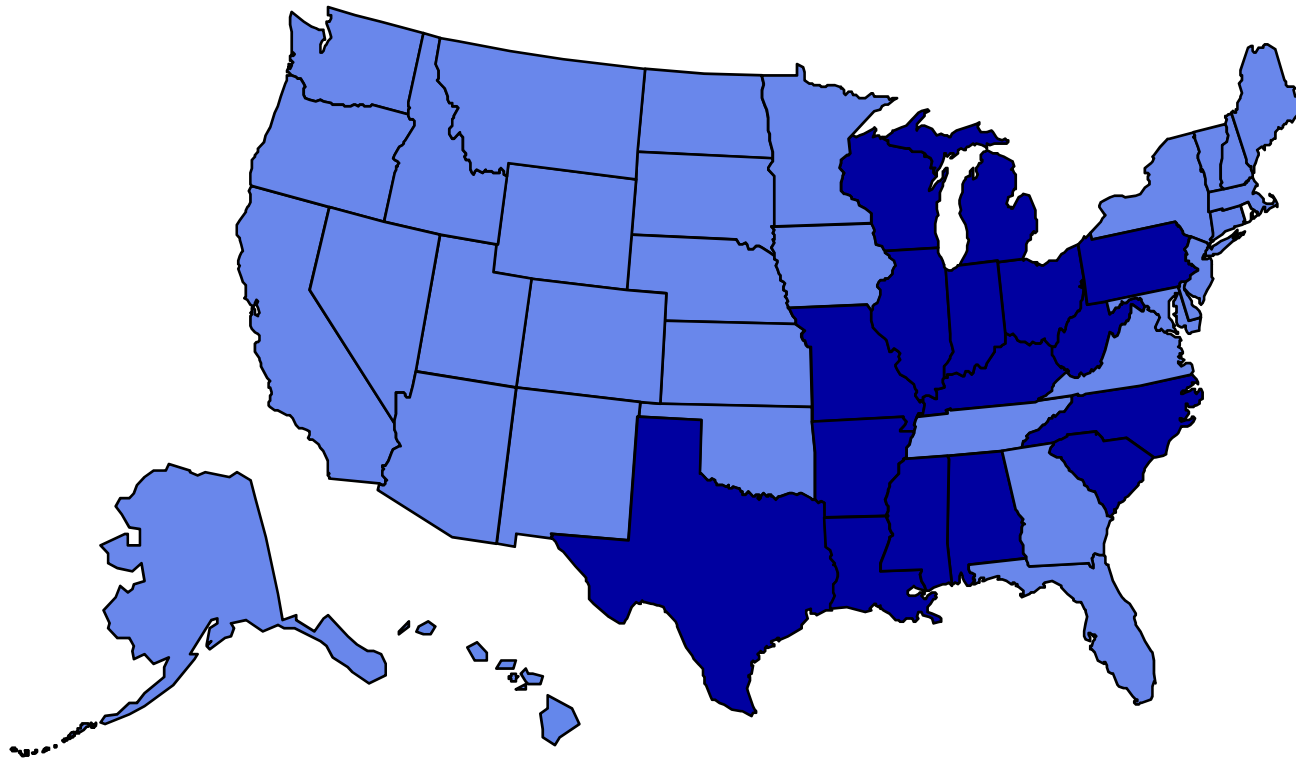




# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1994

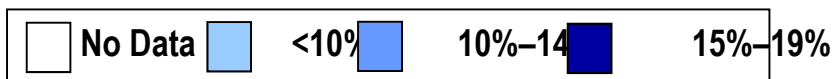
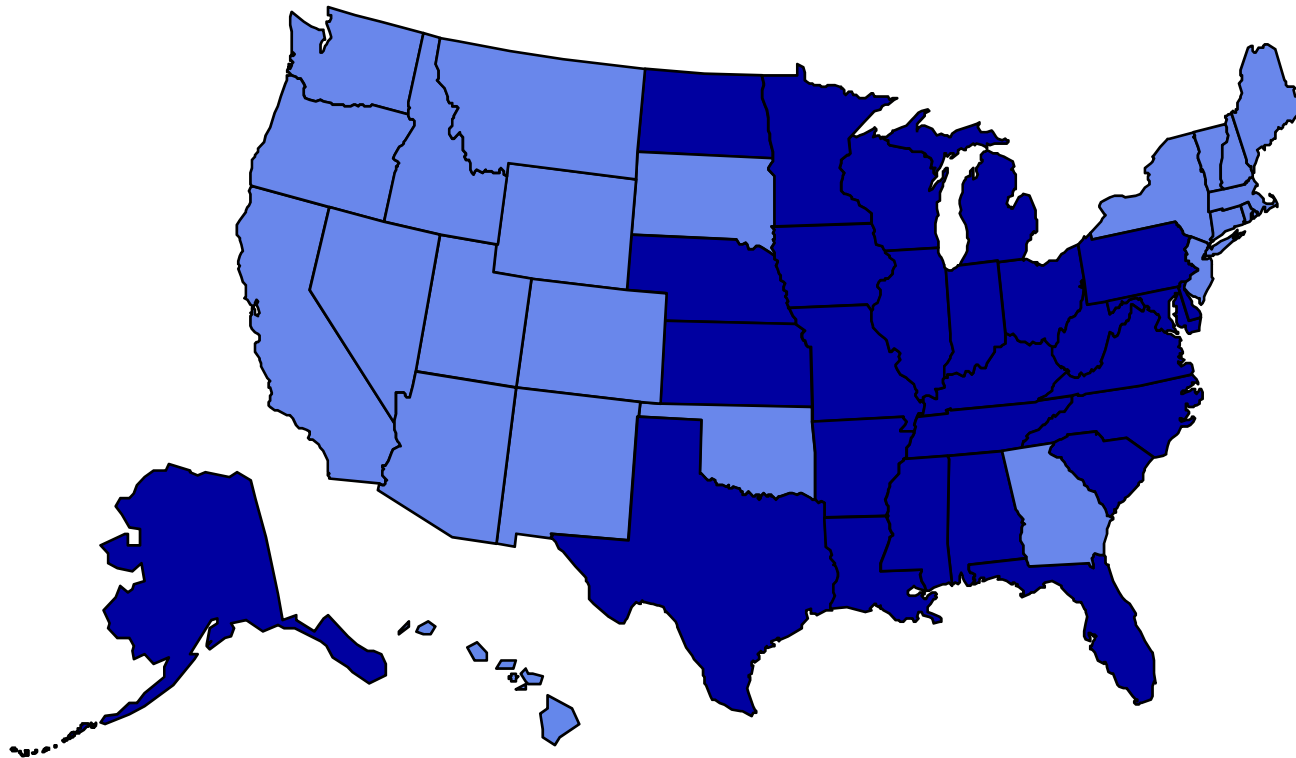
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1995

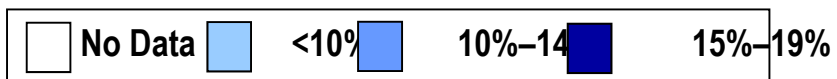
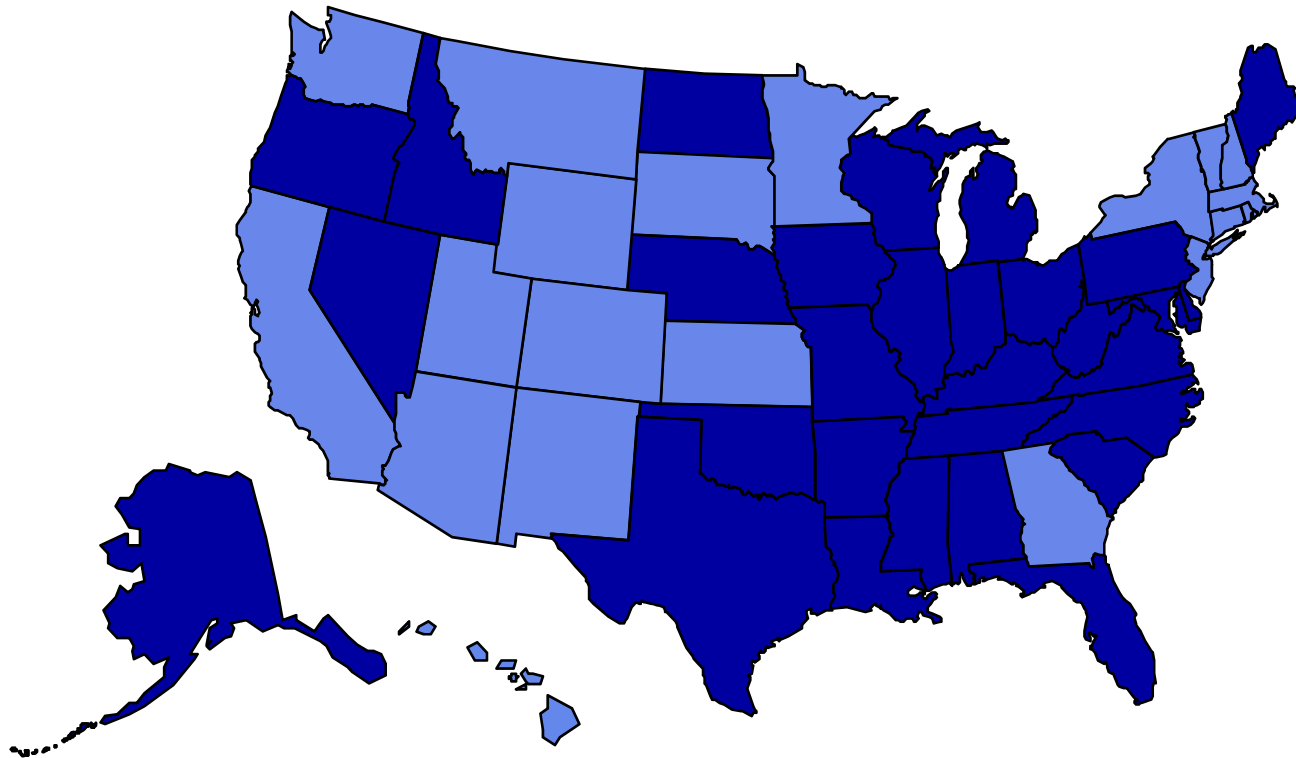
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1996

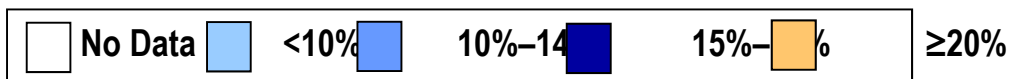
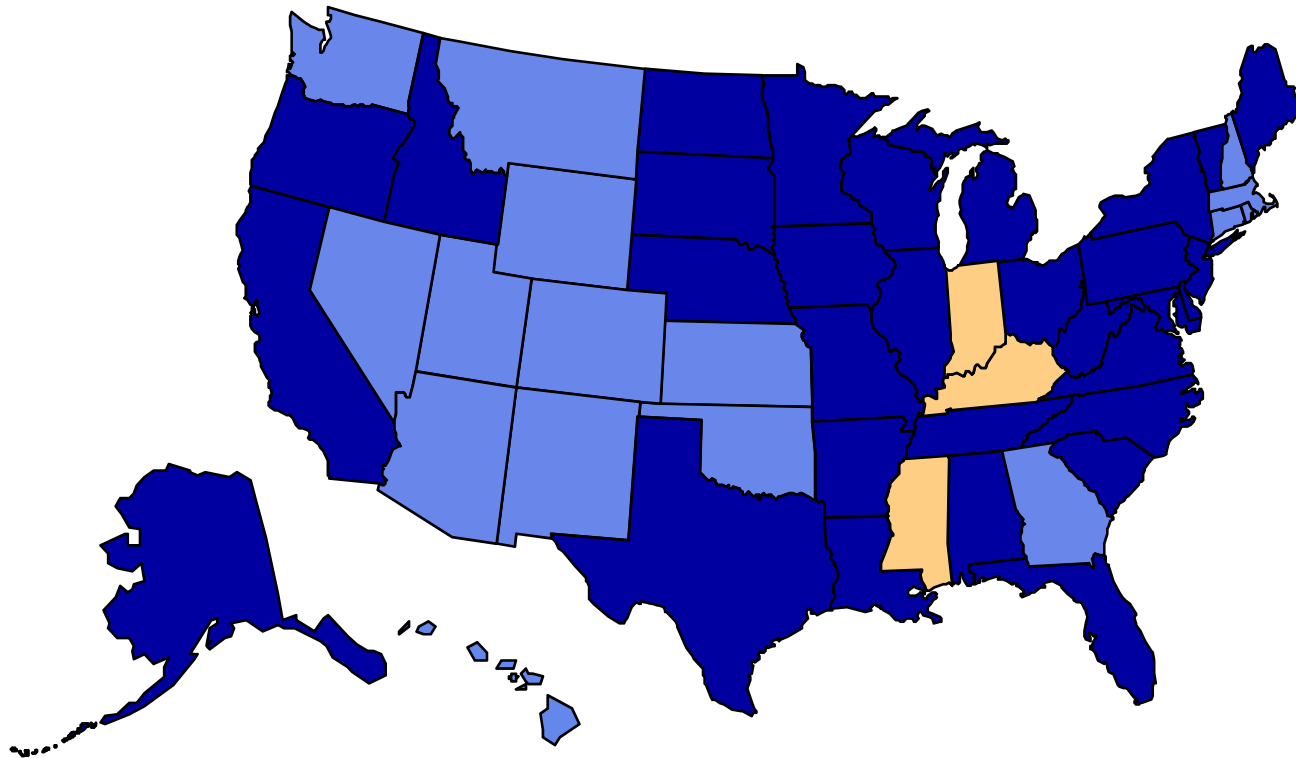
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1997

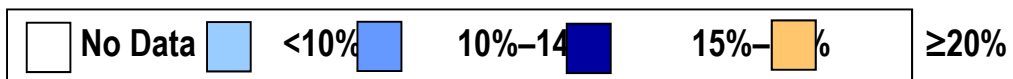
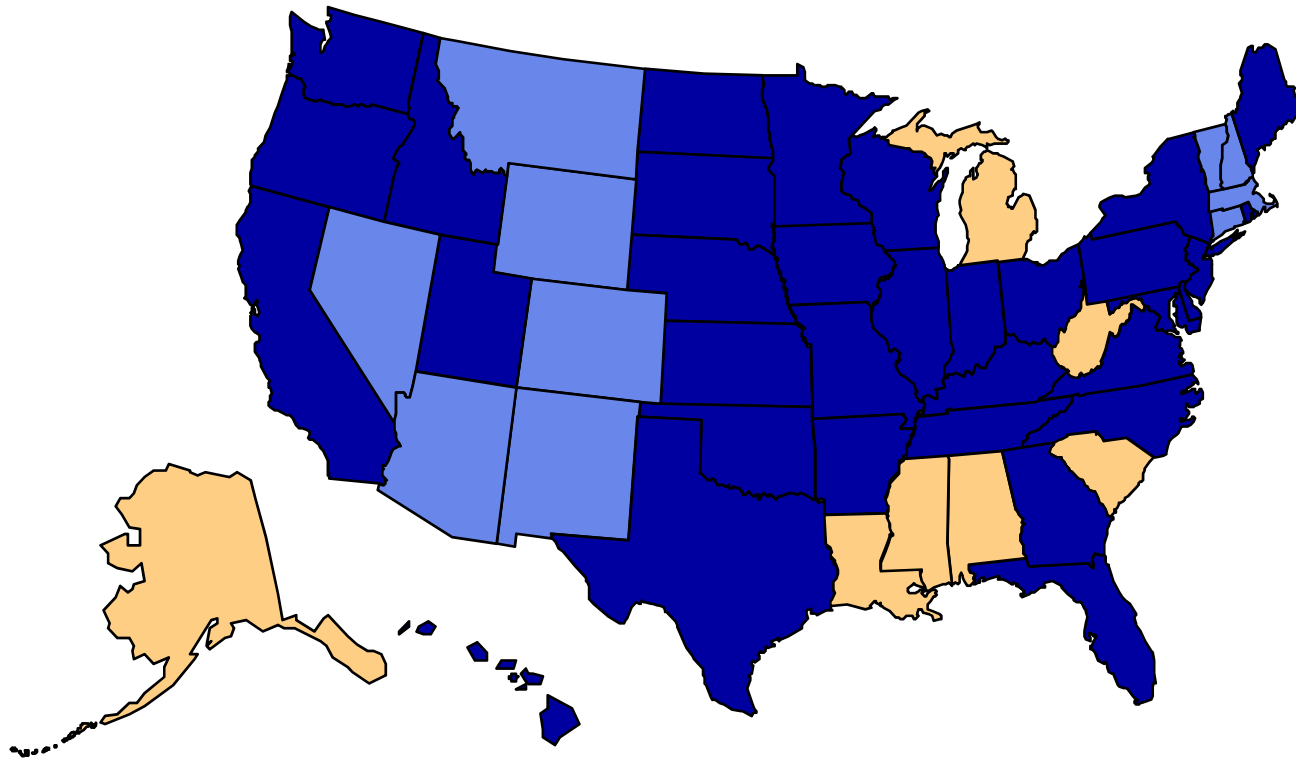
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1998

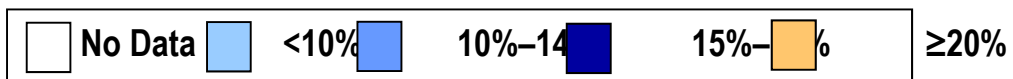
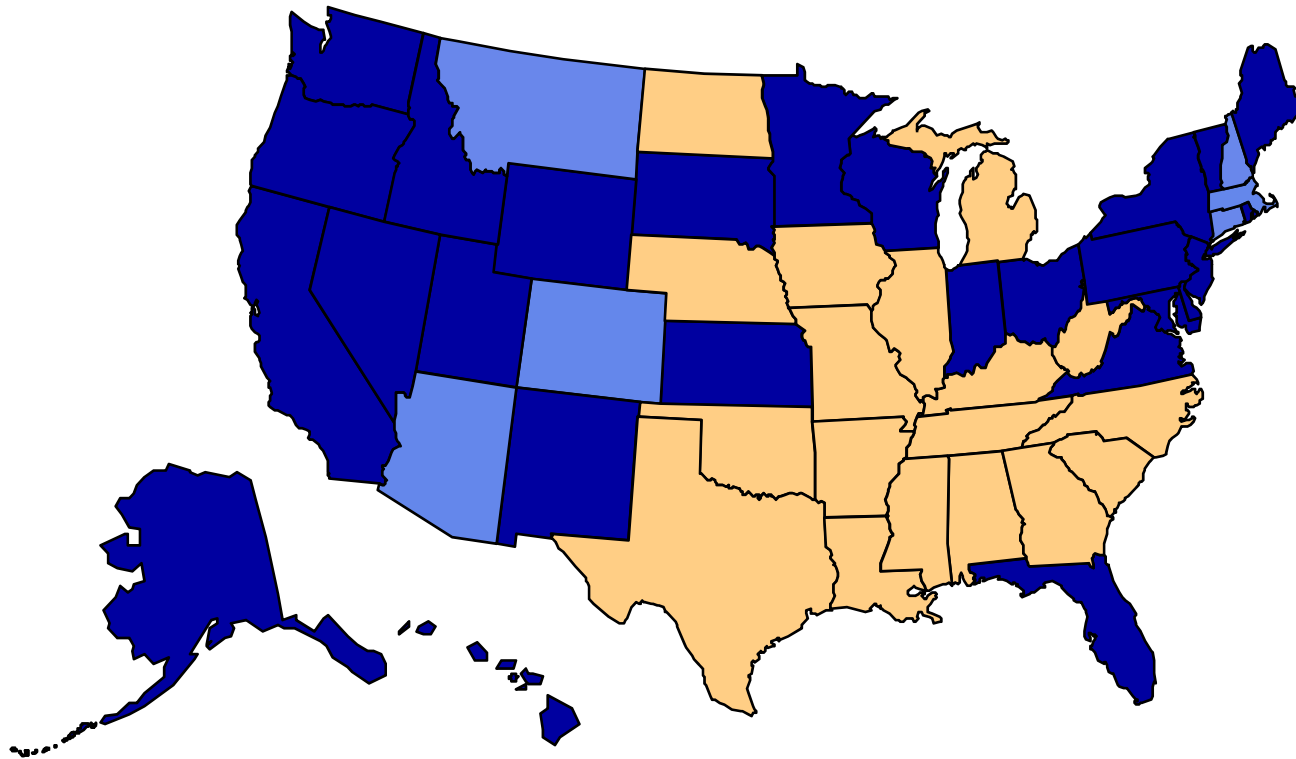
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 1999

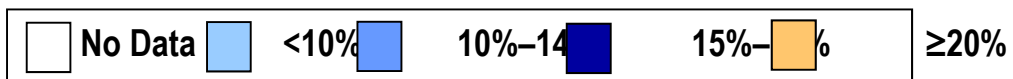
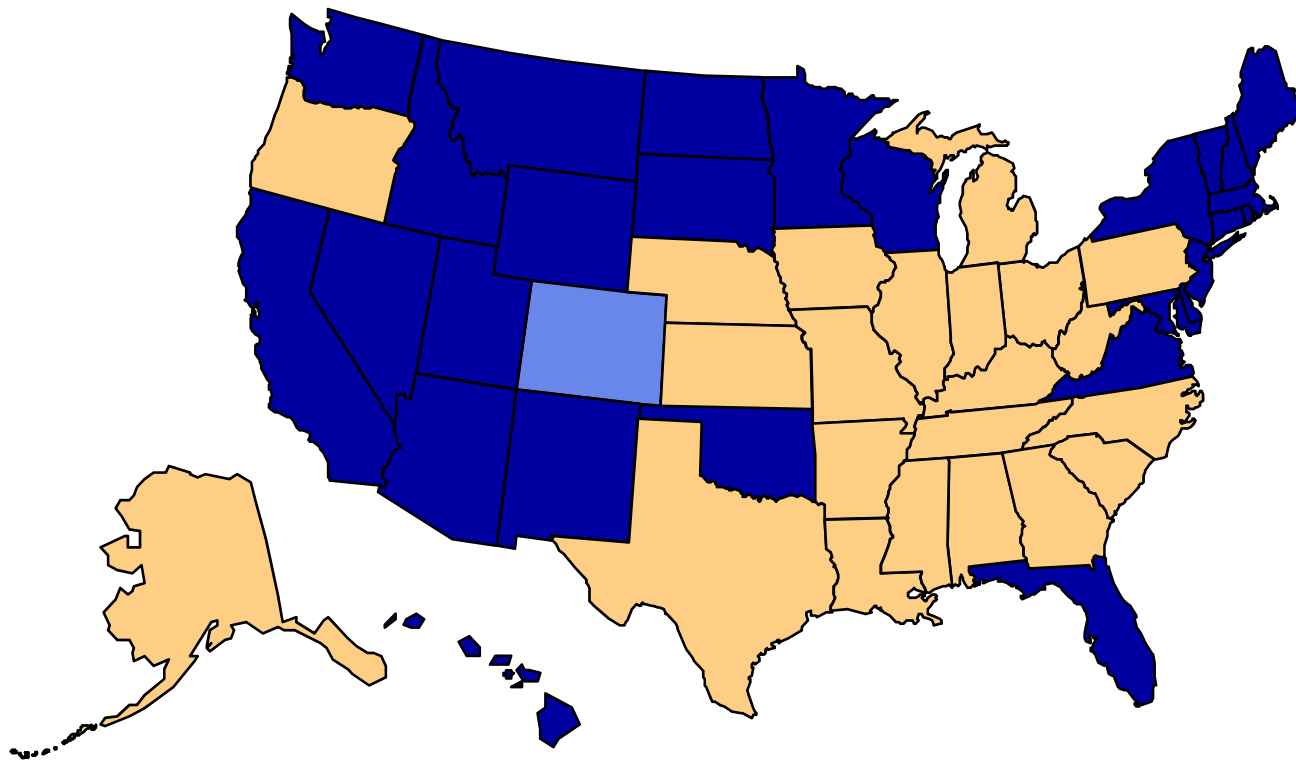
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2000

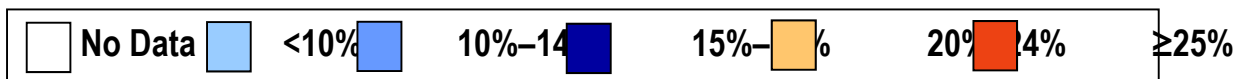
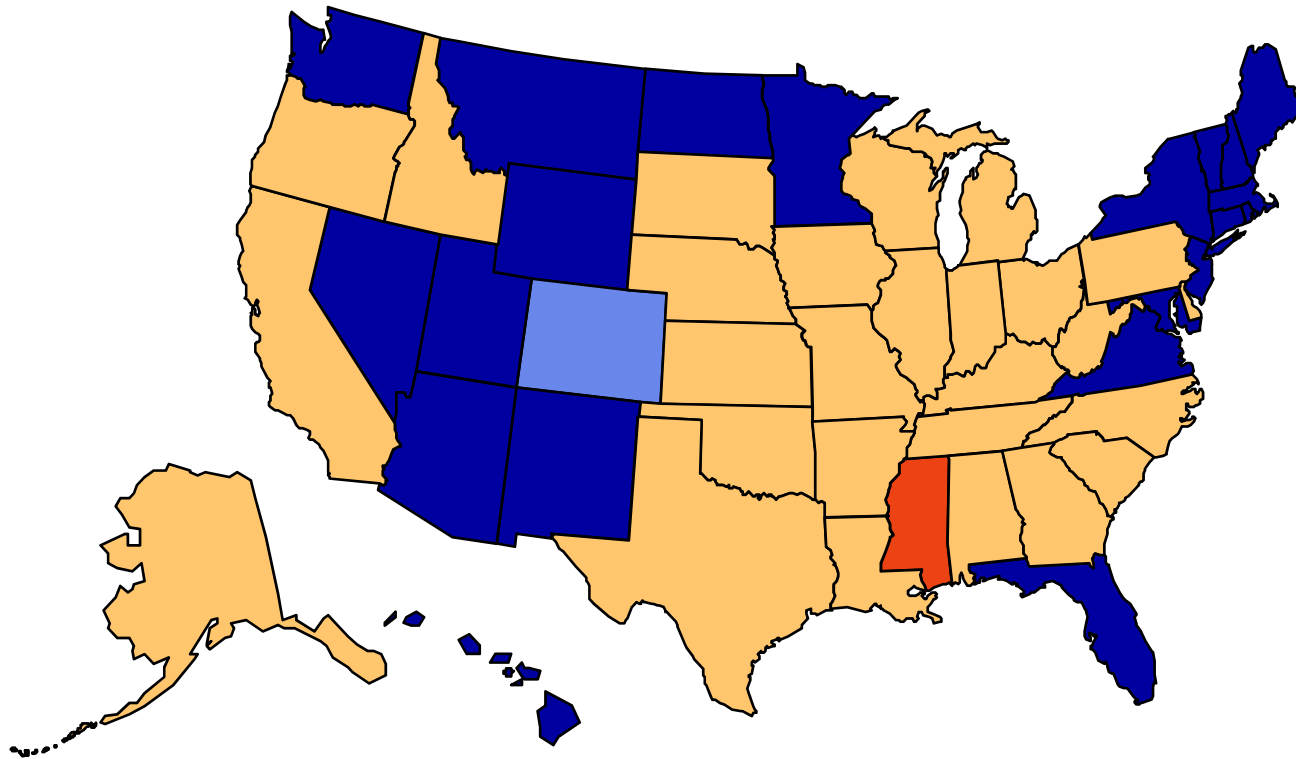
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2001

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)

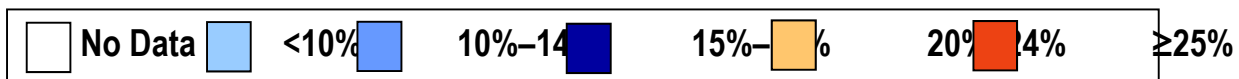
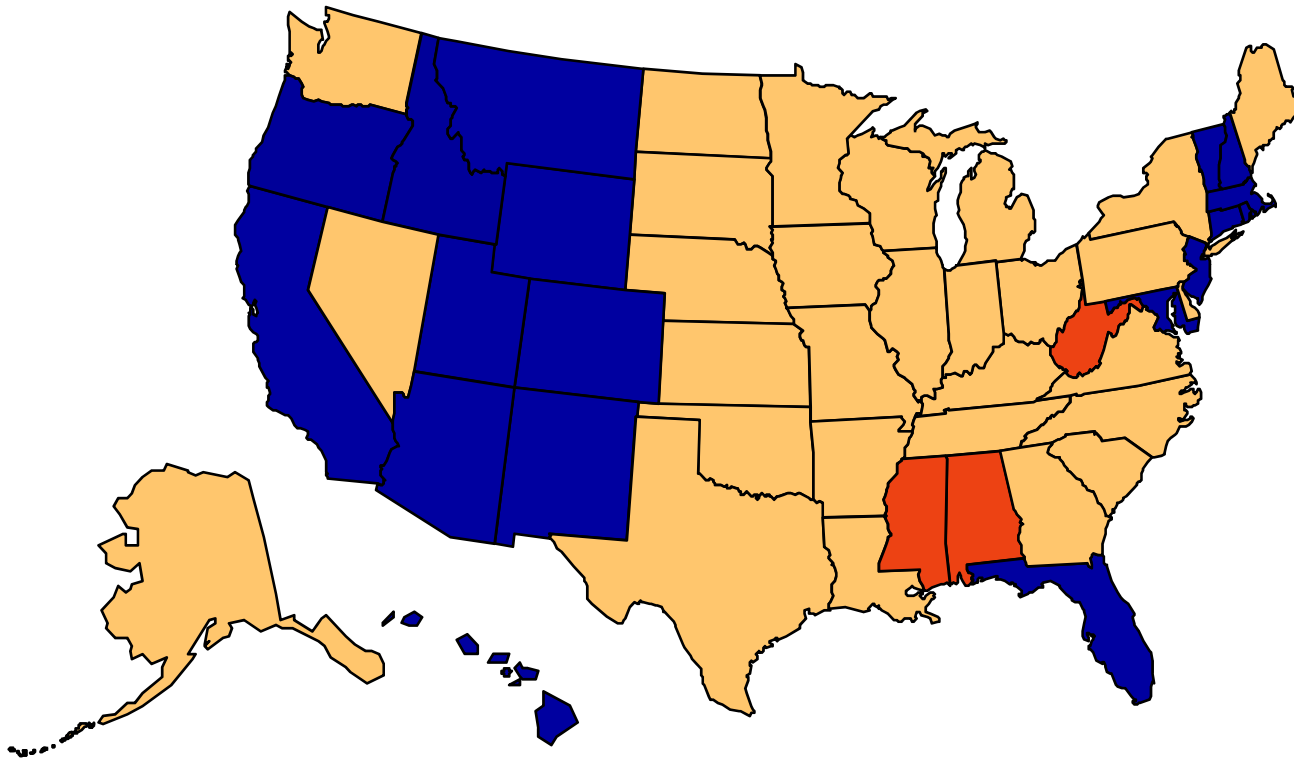




# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

## BRFSS, 2002

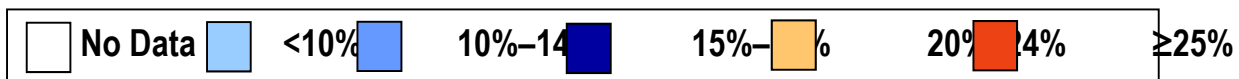
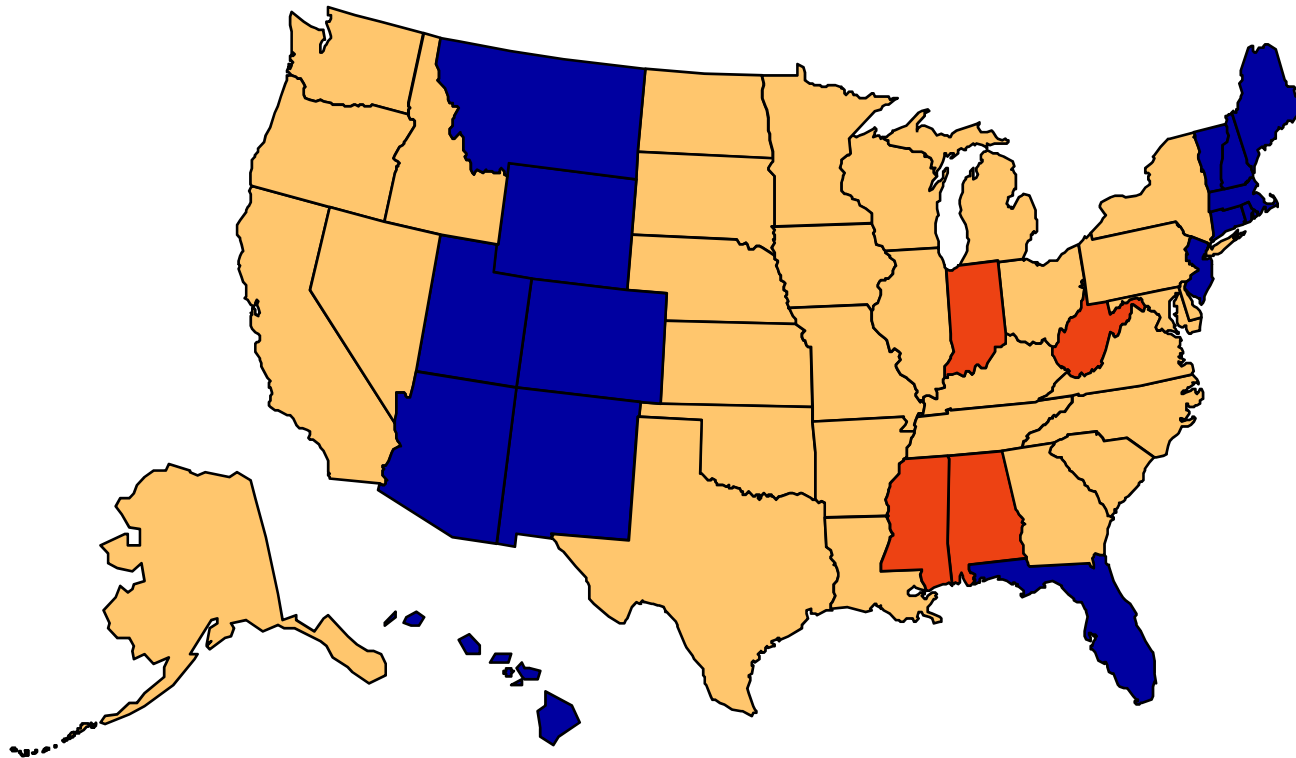
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2003

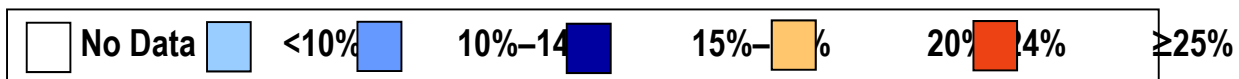
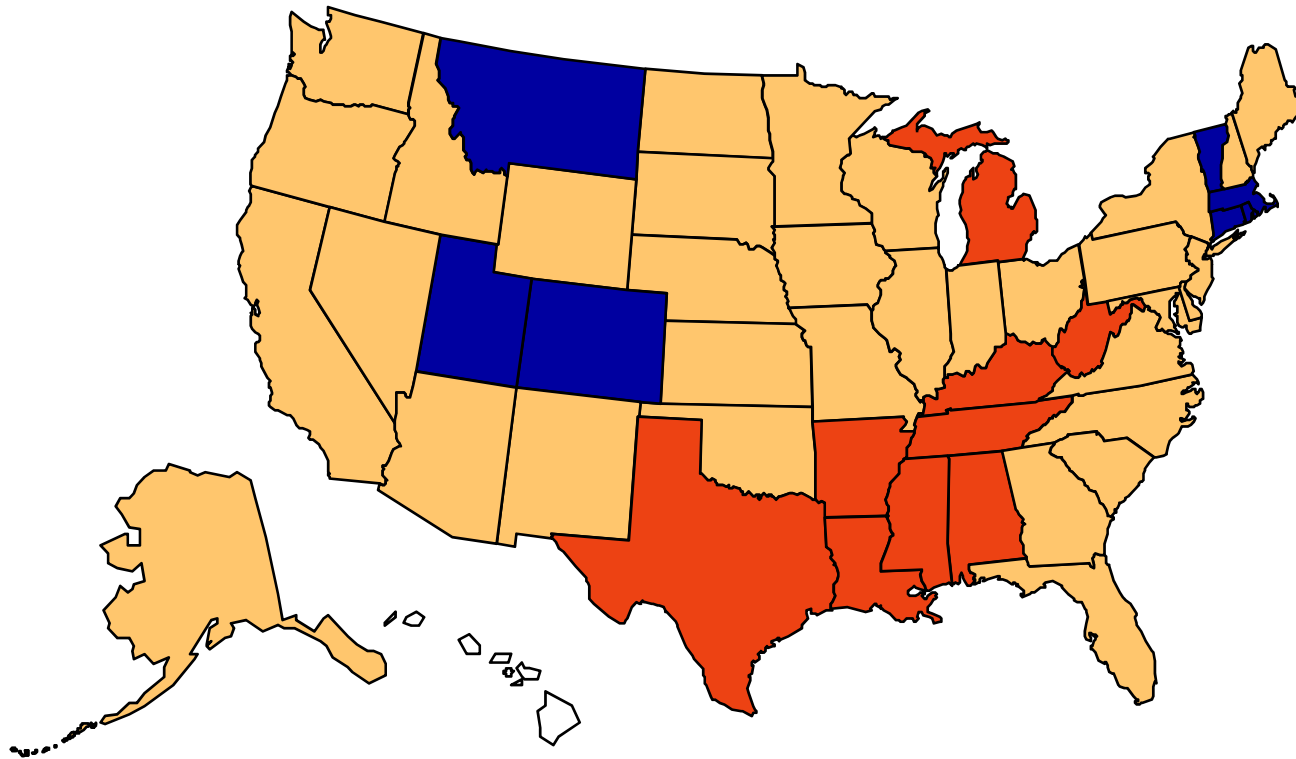
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2004

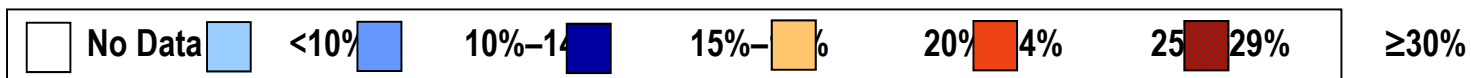
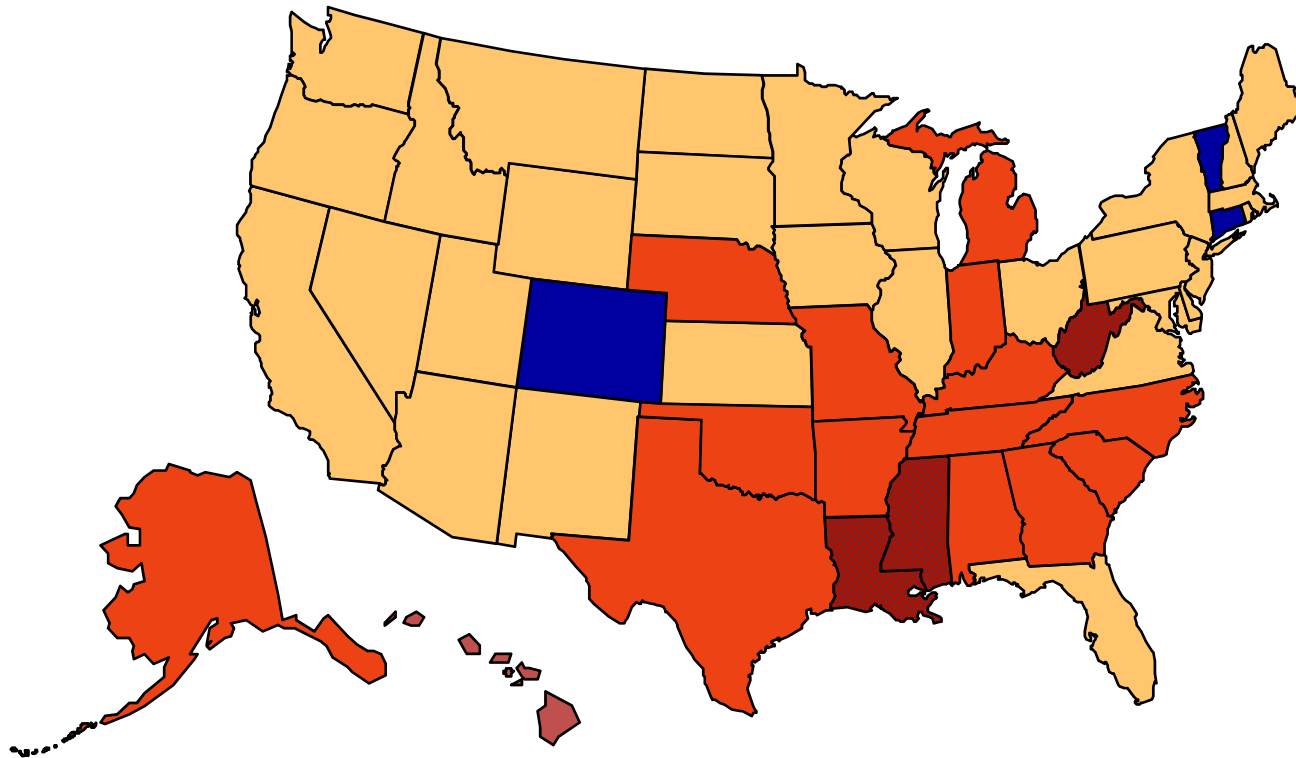
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2005

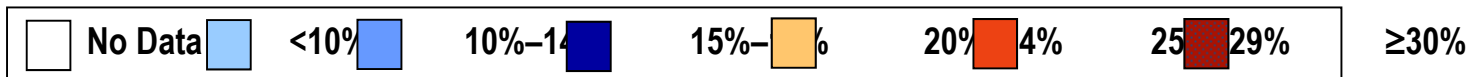
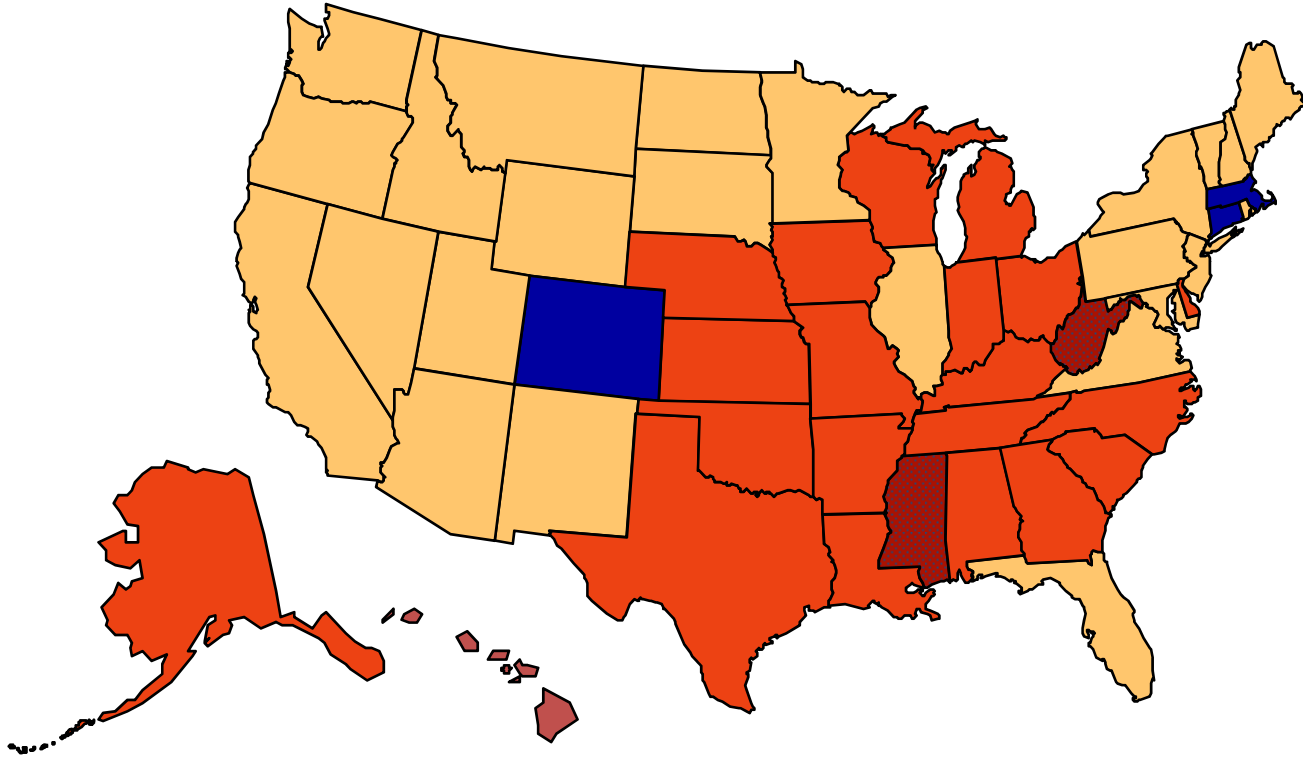
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2006

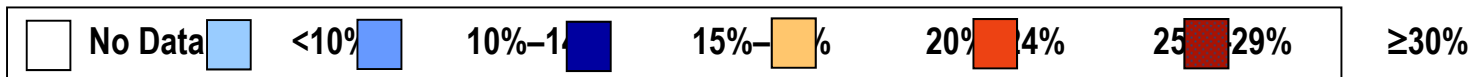
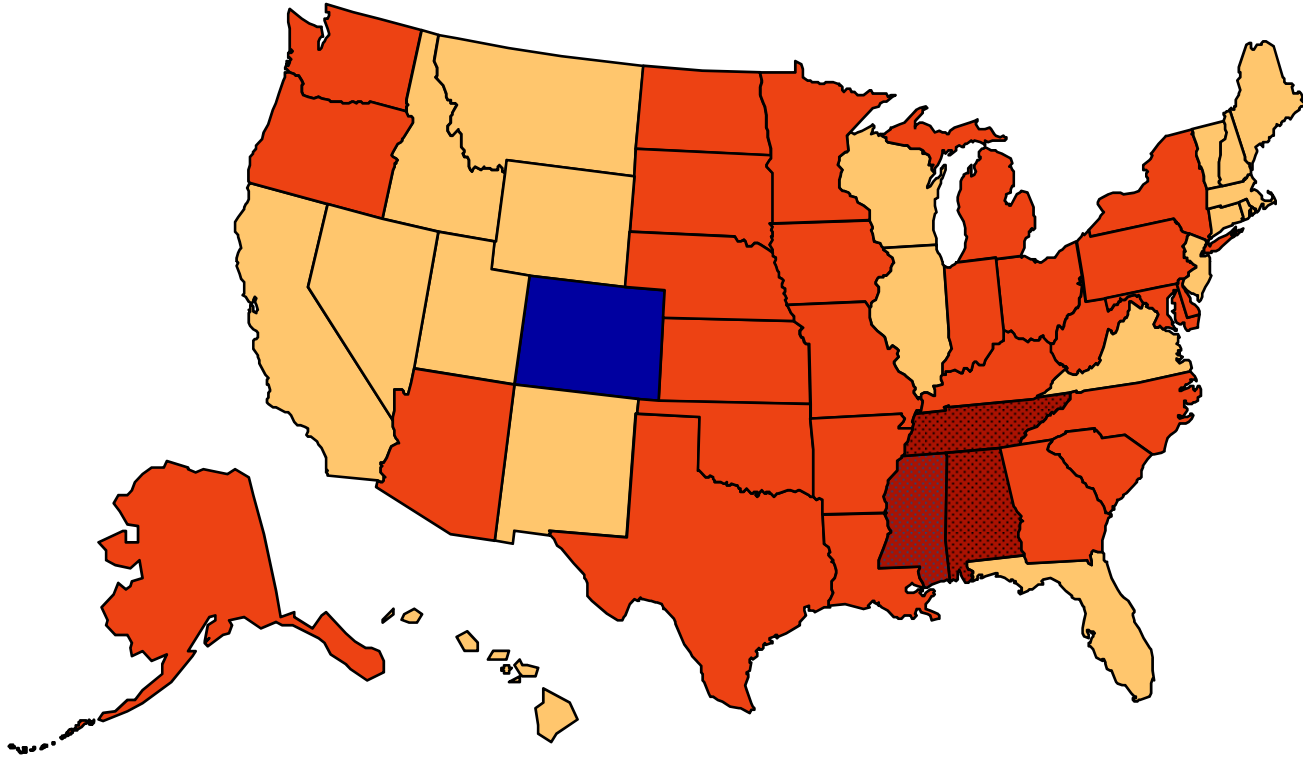
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# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

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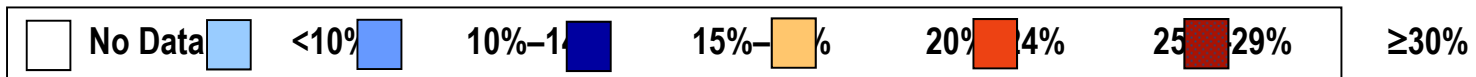
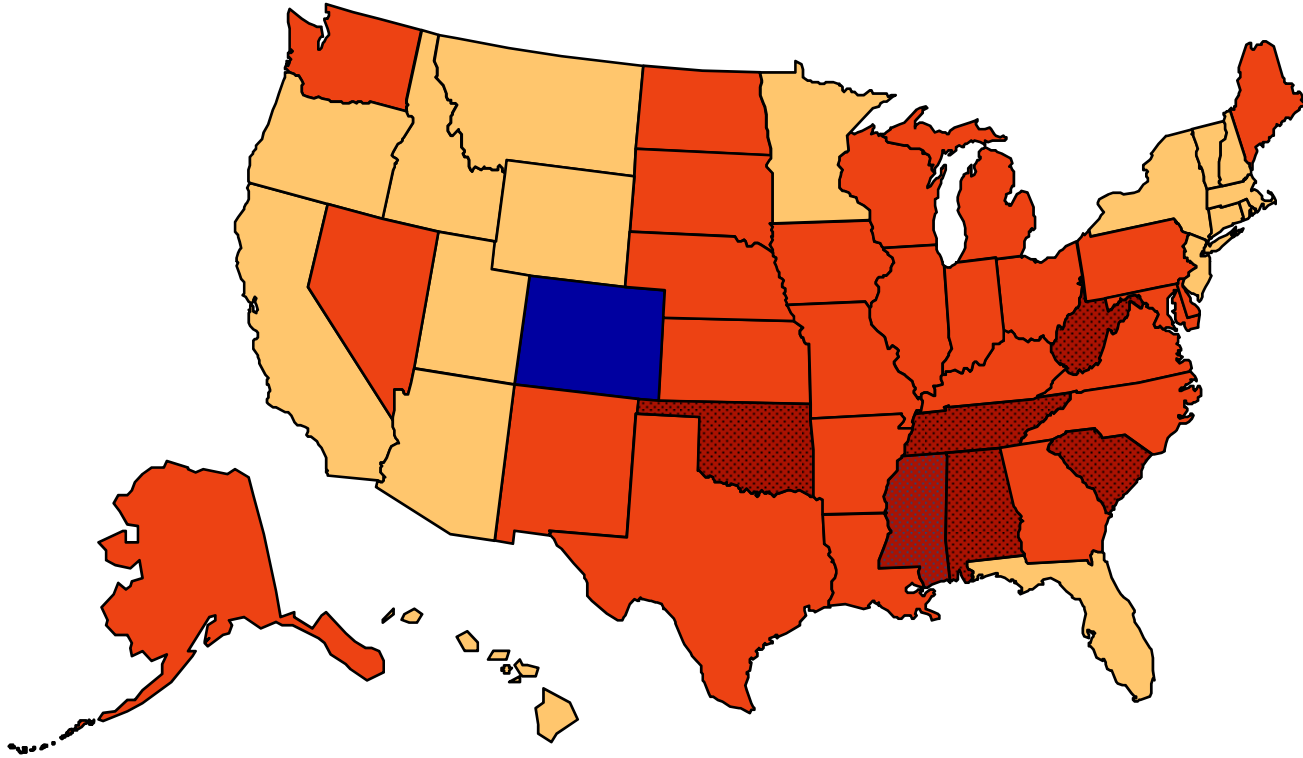
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

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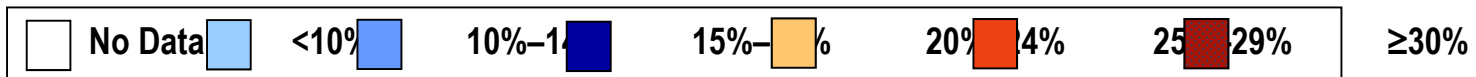
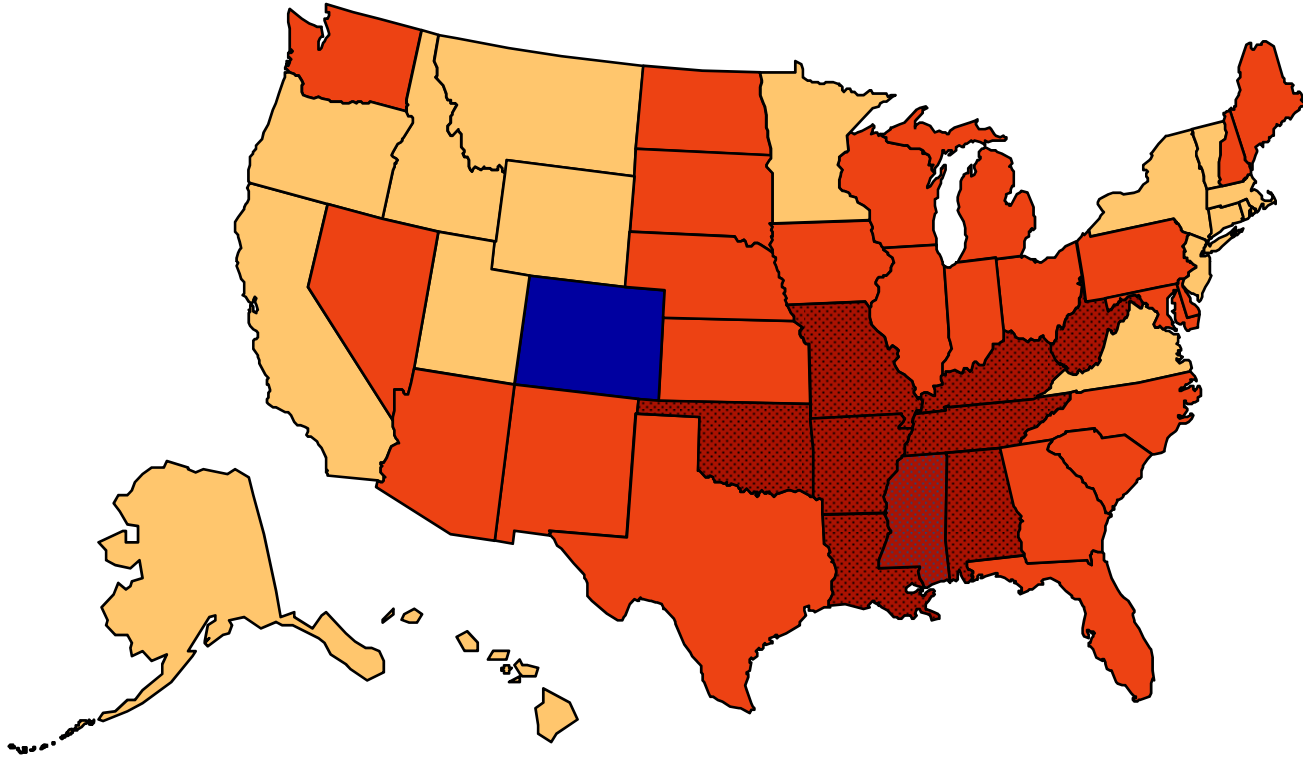
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2009

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)





# Changes happen too fast!

(Same story, for example, with autism and diabetes...)

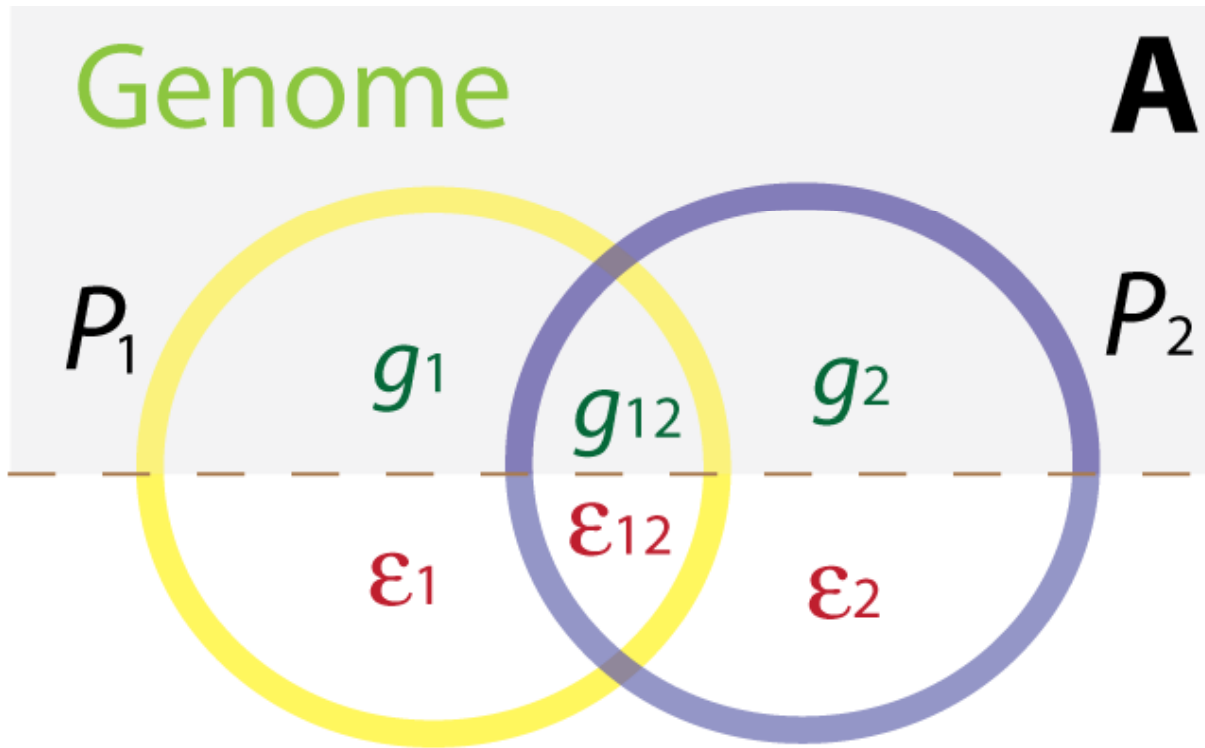
## Should consider environment!

Environment?

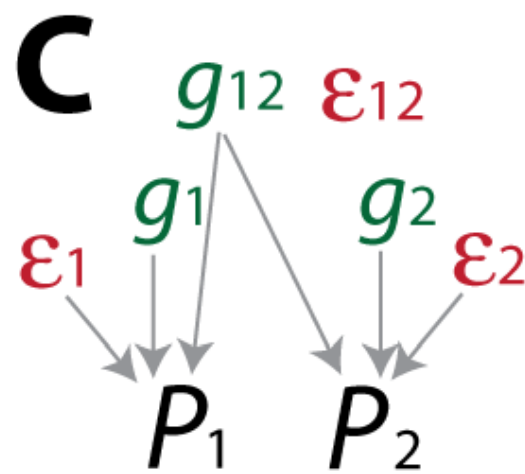
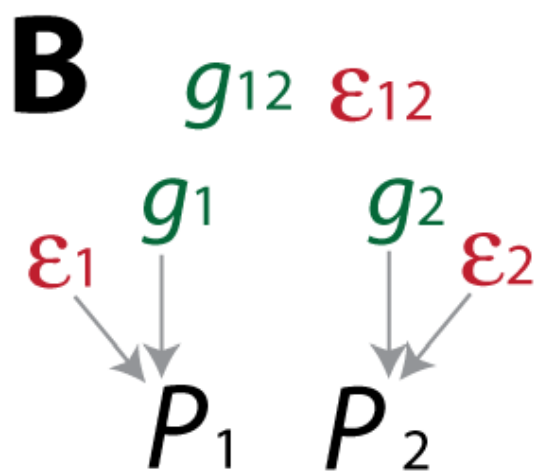
Nature vs. Nurture

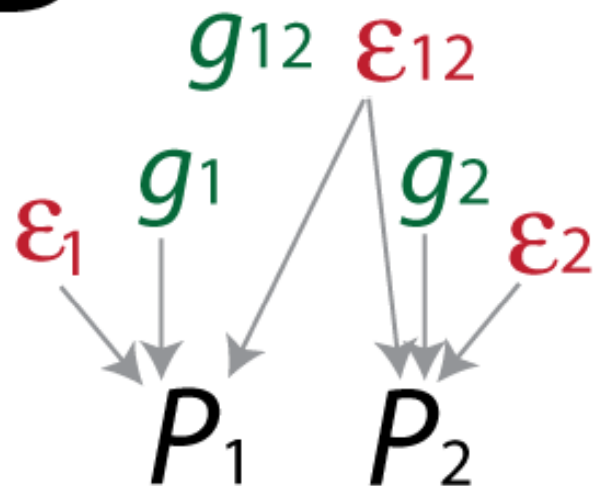
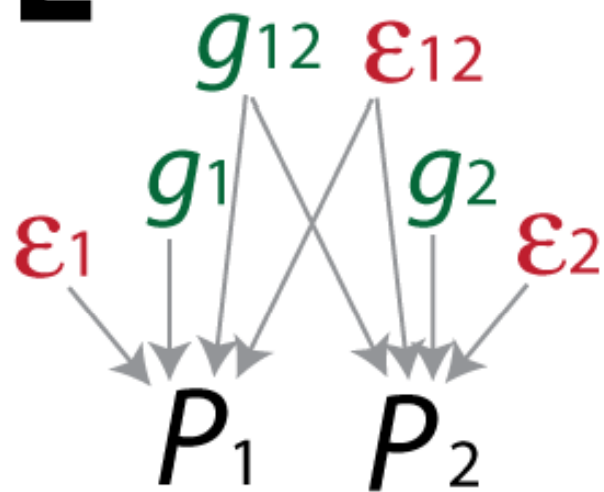
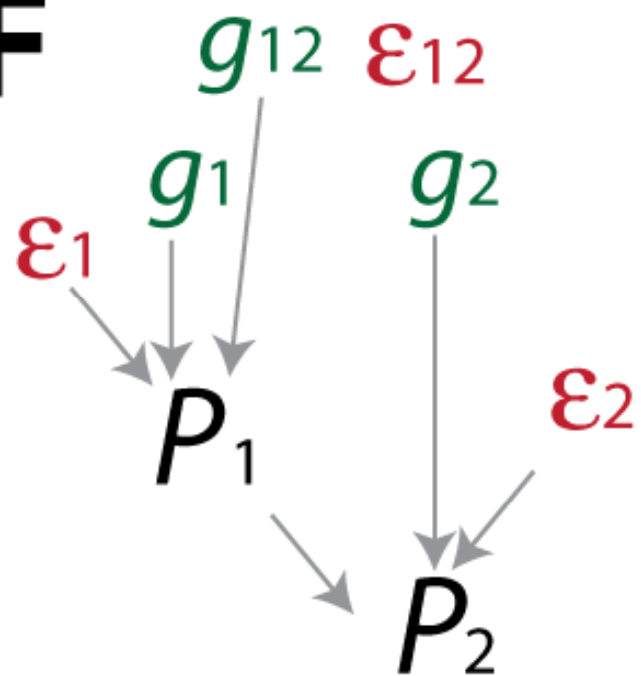
Genes or environment?





**Environment**



**D****E****F**

Data: pedigrees + genetic variation +  
phenotypes (disease or healthy)

# Genetic-linkage Mapping of Complex Hereditary Disorders to a Whole- genome Molecular- interaction Network



Ivan Iossifov



Tian Zheng

Miron Baron

T. Conrad Gilliam

AR

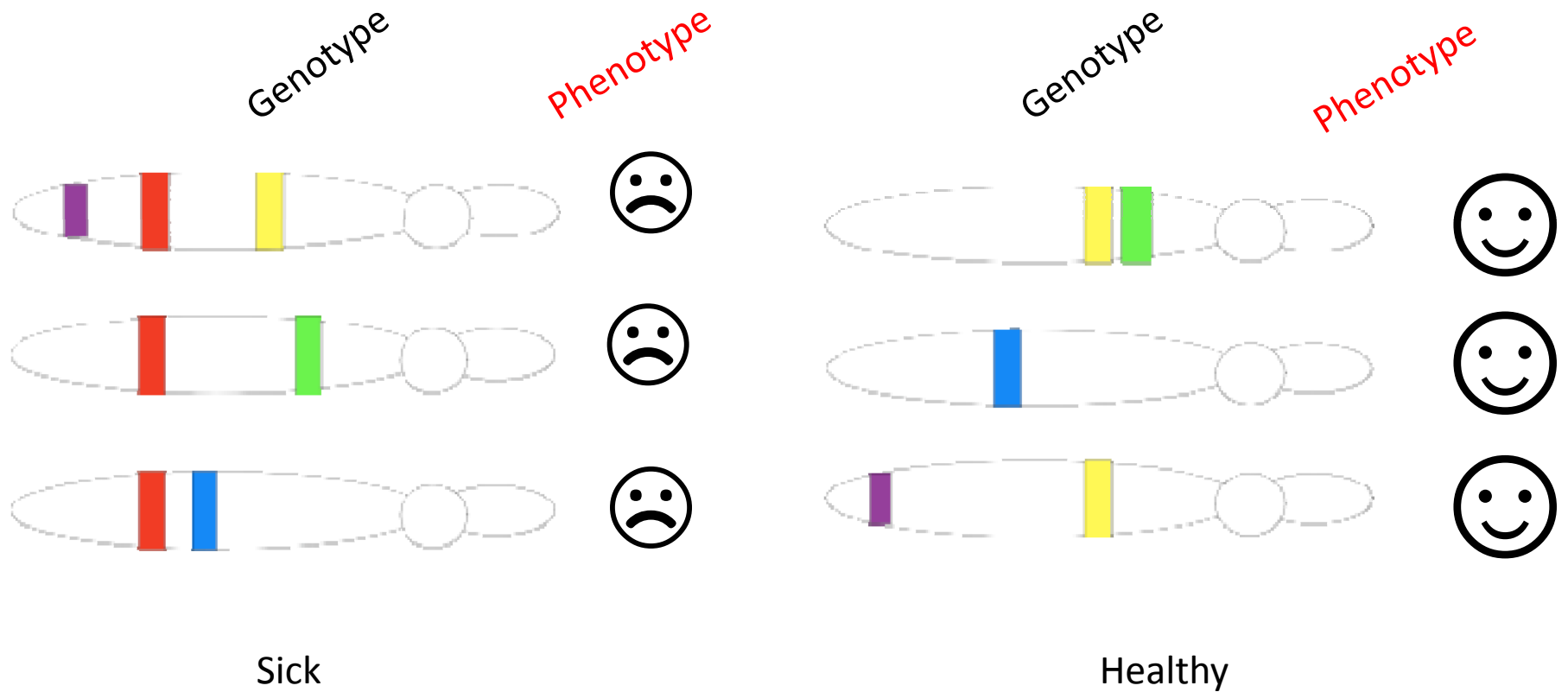


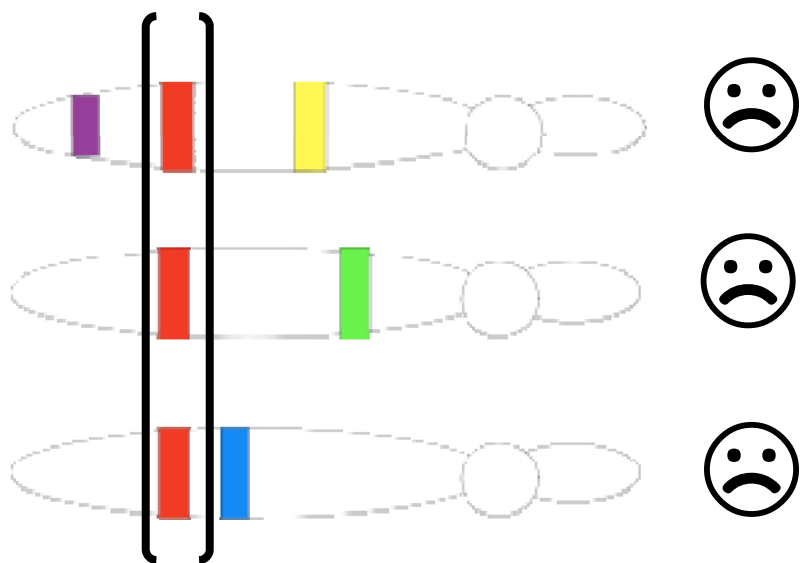
# Genetic-linkage mapping of complex hereditary disorders to a whole-genome molecular-interaction network

Ivan Iossifov,<sup>1</sup> Tian Zheng,<sup>2</sup> Miron Baron,<sup>3</sup> T. Conrad Gilliam,<sup>4</sup>  
and Andrey Rzhetsky<sup>4,5,6</sup>

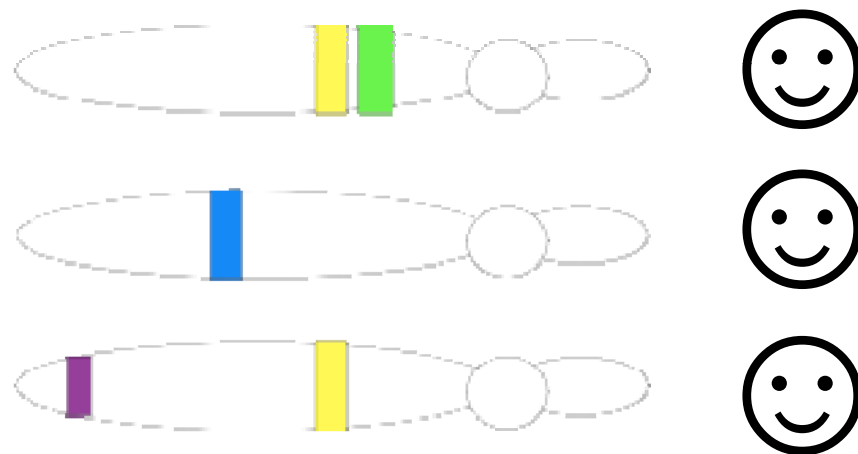
18:1150–1162 ©2008 by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; ISSN 1088-9051/08; www.genome.org

# One-chromosome example





Sick



Healthy

# Combinations of genes:

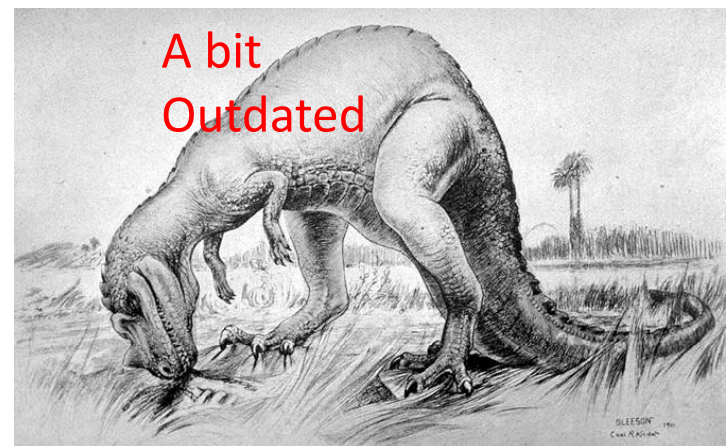
$10^8$  -- 2 genes

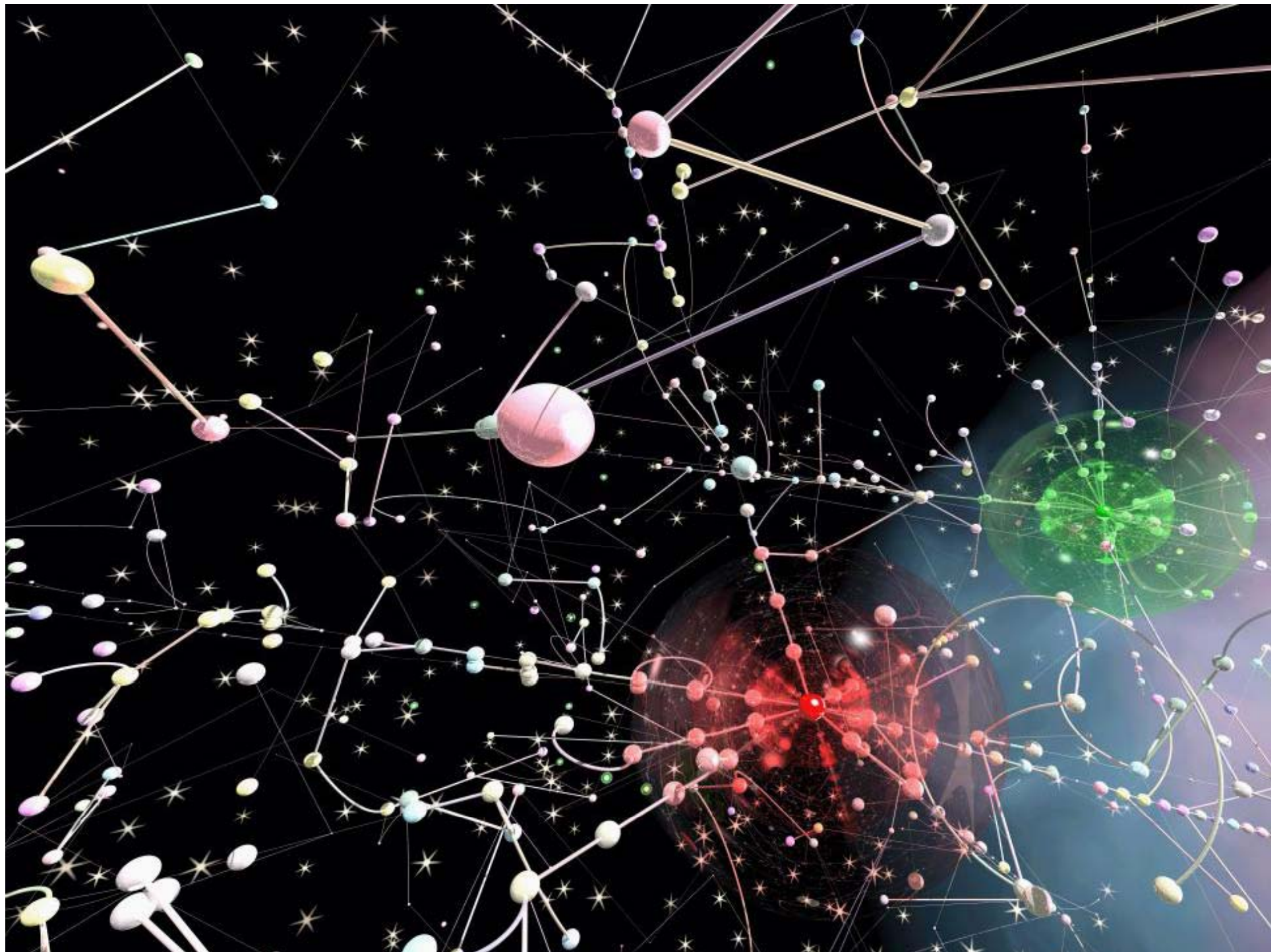
$10^{12}$  -- 3 genes

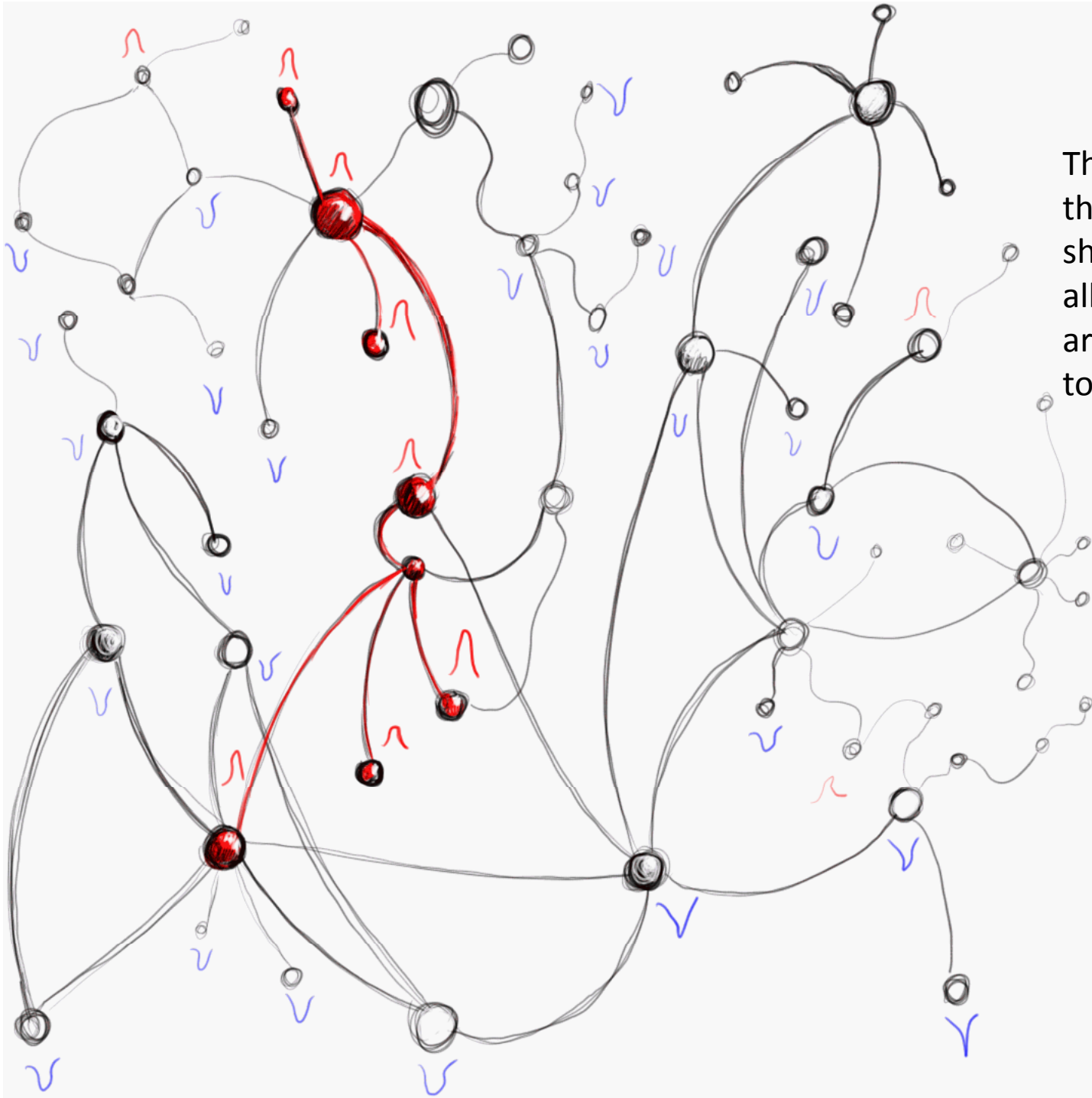
$10^{16}$  -- 4 genes

$10^{37}$  -- 10 genes

Now, we have 23 chromosomes in  
two copies,  
~25,000 genes

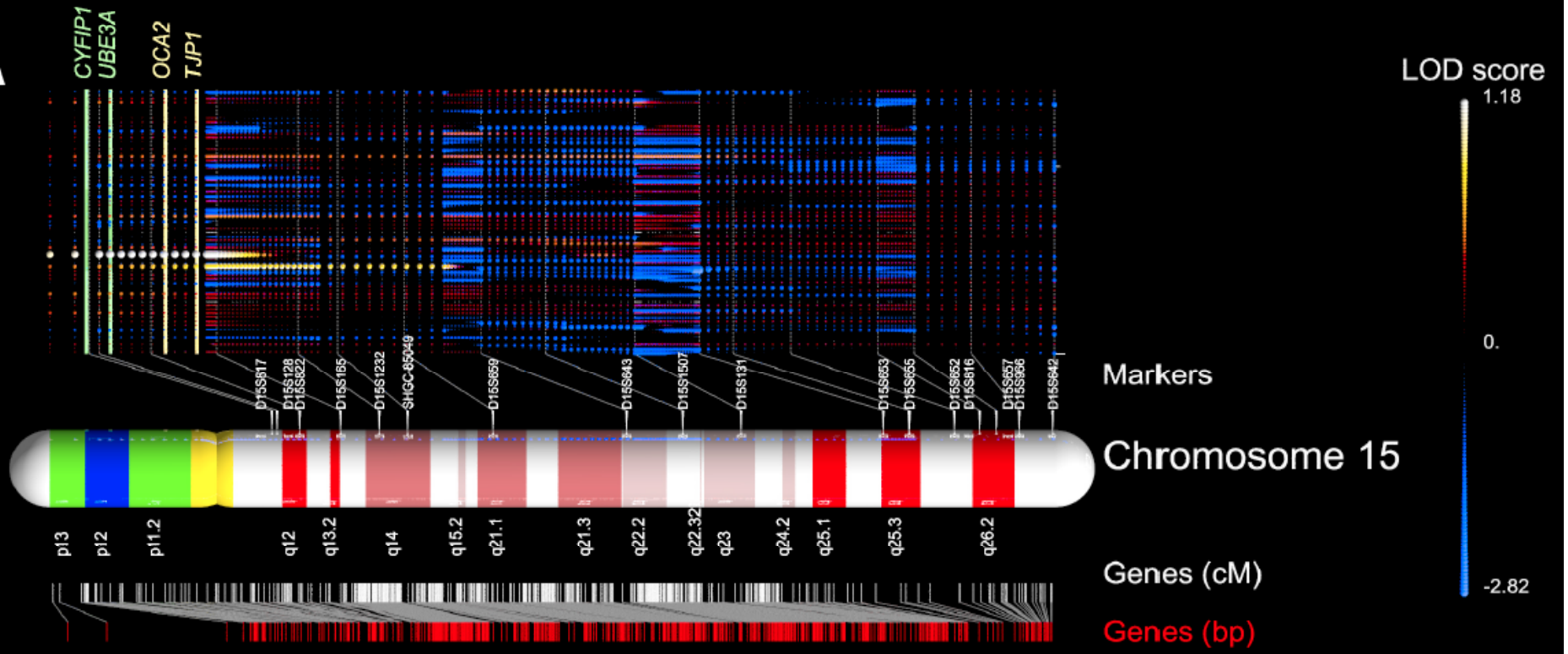




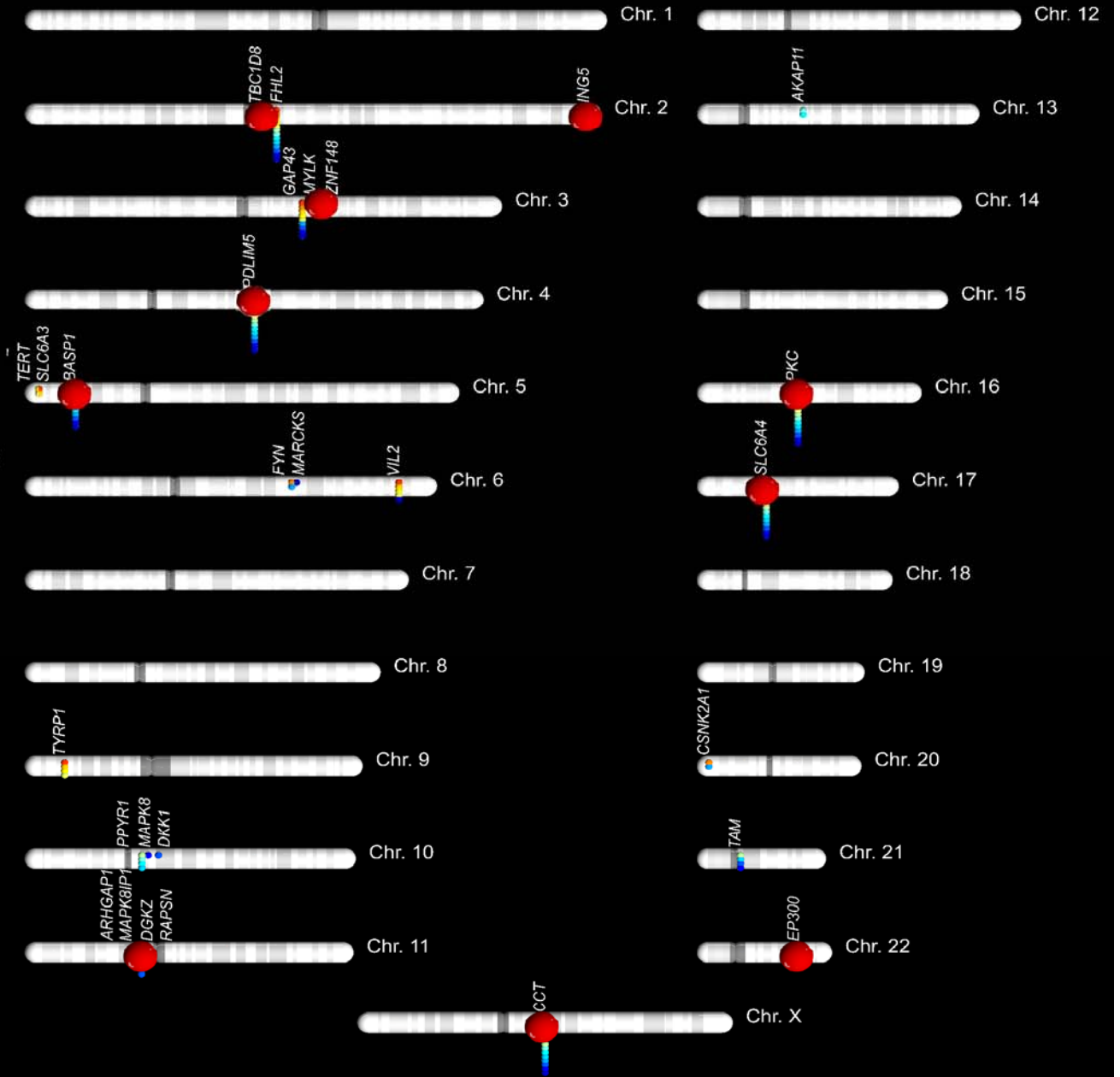
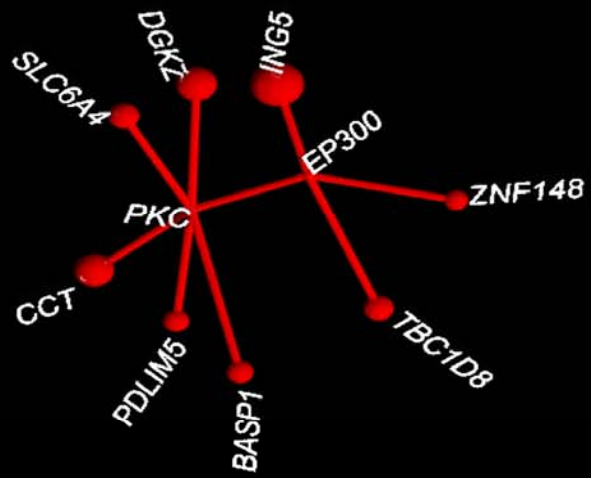


Then we realized  
that the clusters  
should be  
allowed to have  
arbitrary  
topology

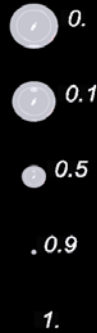
A





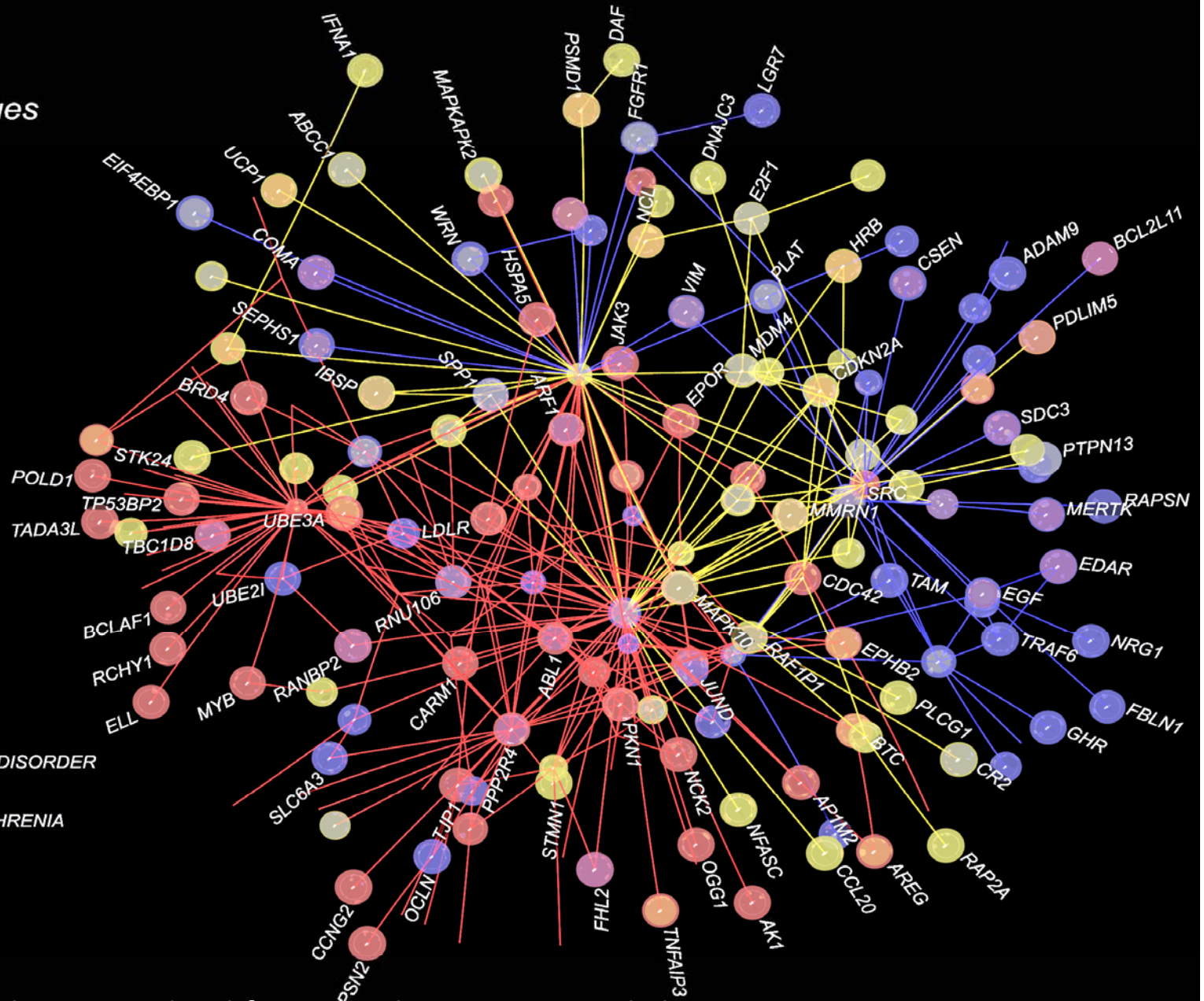
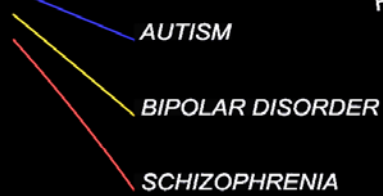


Gene-specific p-values



B

Disorders



“Our” predictions indeed form overlapping networks!



Completely different type of data  
(the same problem)

Current age:

15

Ethnicity:

Hispanic

Female

Unspecified viral  
Infection at age 6

15|H|F^079.9:5|079.99:6|278.0:3|345.10:6|372.30:0|389.9:4|462:7|465.9  
:2|474.0:6|474.11:6|478.1:6|486:7|493.90:7|784.0:5|785.1:7|786.50:5|95  
9.8:1|999.99:0|V20.1:5|V20.2:13|V21.2:4|V30.00:0|V62.89:6|V67.0:4|V6  
7.9:0|V70.0:3|V72.1:5

27|U|M^079.9:8|493.90:10 ...

Data: ICD9 codes in Columbia  
University clinical database

# Data

$\Sigma = 1.5 \perp 10^6$  patient records

# Probing genetic overlap among complex human phenotypes

Andrey Rzhetsky<sup>\*†‡</sup>, David Wajngurt<sup>\*</sup>, Naeun Park<sup>\*</sup>, and Tian Zheng<sup>§</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Biomedical Informatics, Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics and Joint Centers for Systems Biology, and <sup>†</sup>Judith P. Sulzberger, M.D., Columbia Genome Center, Columbia University, New York, NY 10032; and <sup>§</sup>Department of Statistics, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027

11694–11699 | PNAS | July 10, 2007 | vol. 104 | no. 28

AR



David  
Wajngurt



Naeun  
Park



Tian  
Zheng





# Assumptions

1. If the same environmental effect triggers two (or more) different maladies, it typically does so through molecular mechanisms that are common between these two maladies.

In other words: *common environmental triggers of two phenotypes can be neglected.*

Although this assumption is likely to be violated for some pairs of disorders, it is a reasonable starting point for the model.

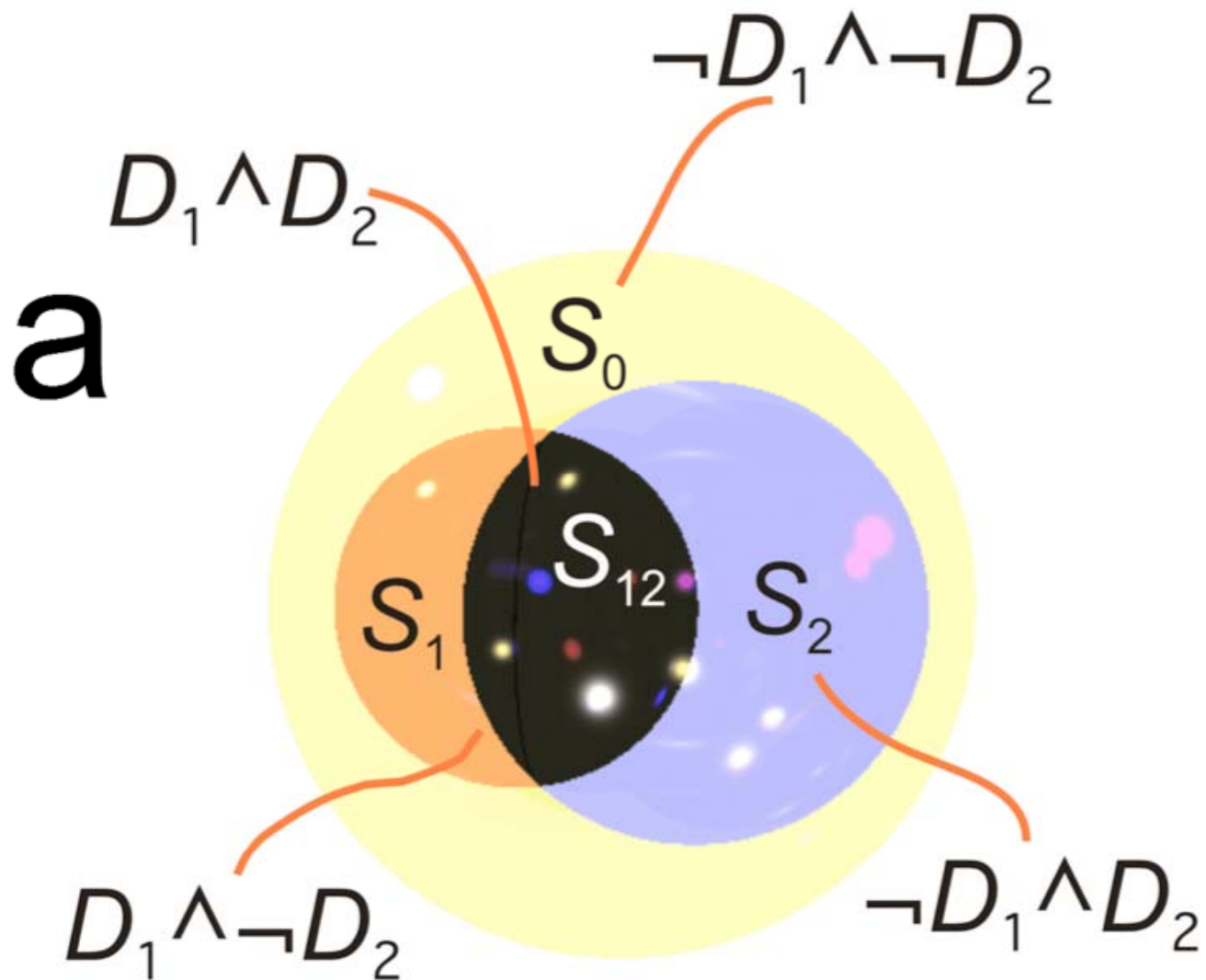
2. For each phenotype pair ( $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ), the whole human genome can be divided into four disjoint sets of nucleotide sites.

3. We assume a spectrum of hypothetical mechanisms that connect genetic variation within the four sets of nucleotide sites to the disease phenotype (genetic penetrance).

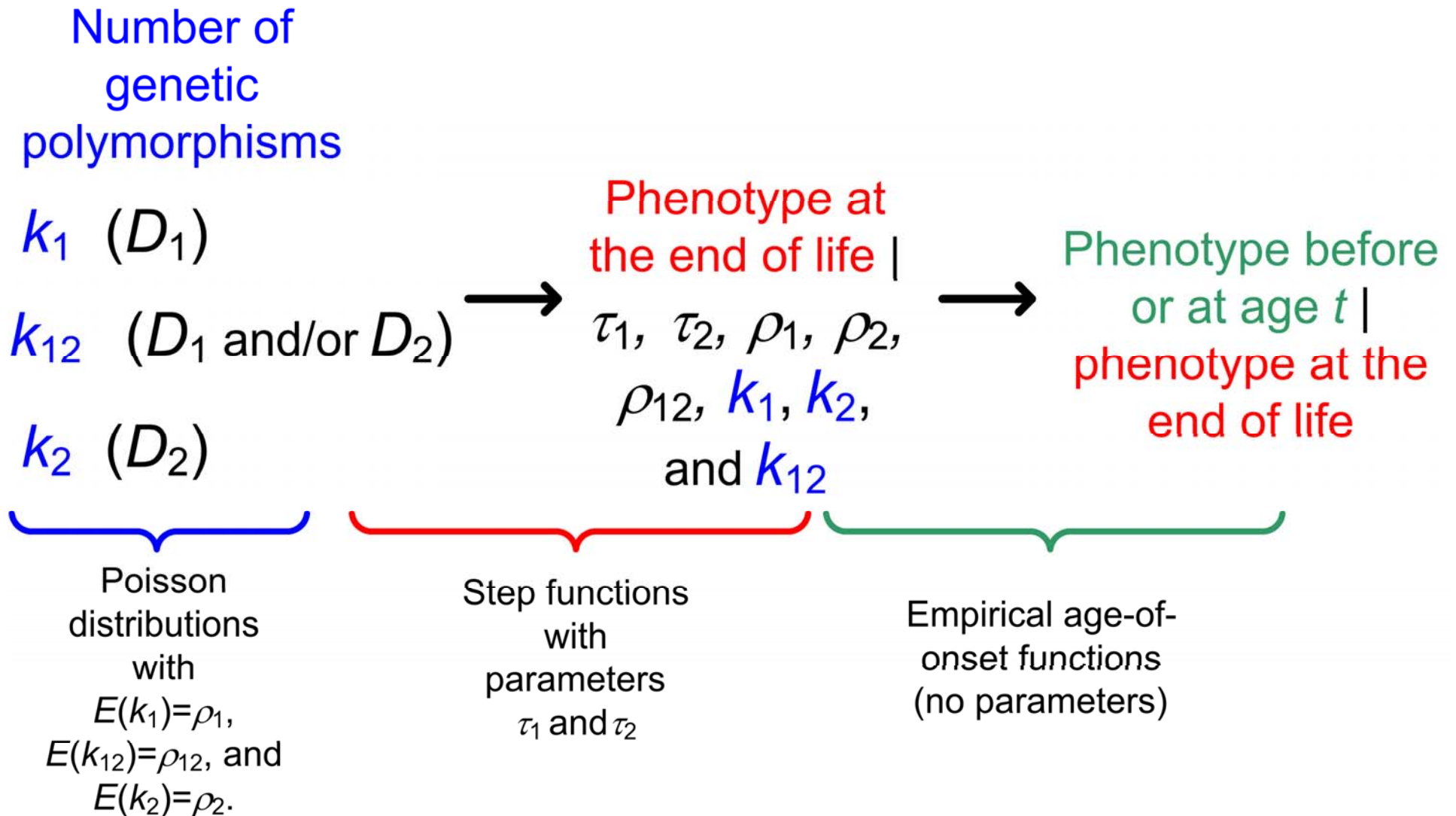


'all models are wrong, some are useful'

# 4 sets of genomic sites

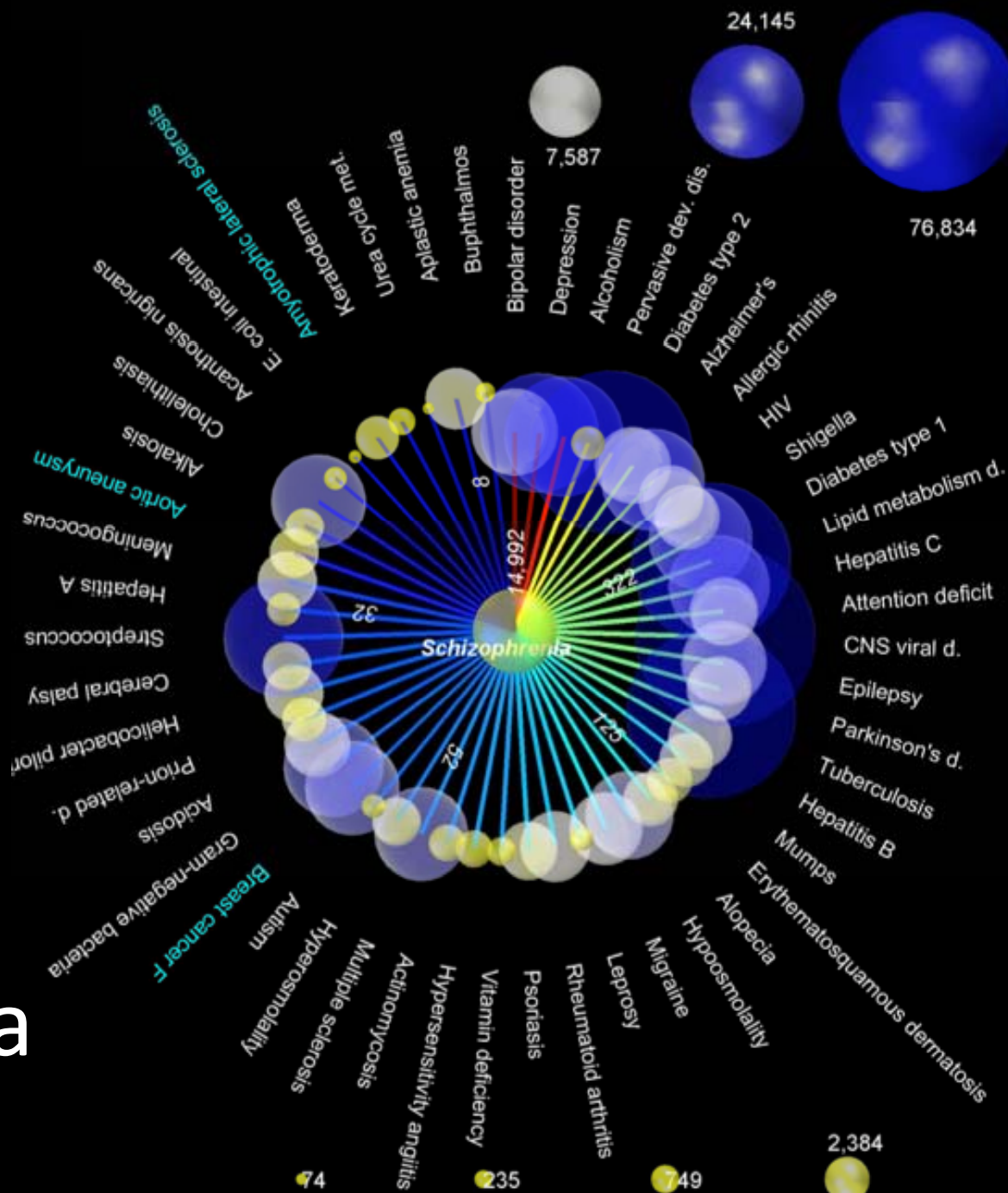


# Model outline...

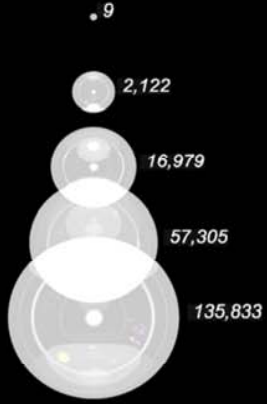


# Results:

# Schizophrenia

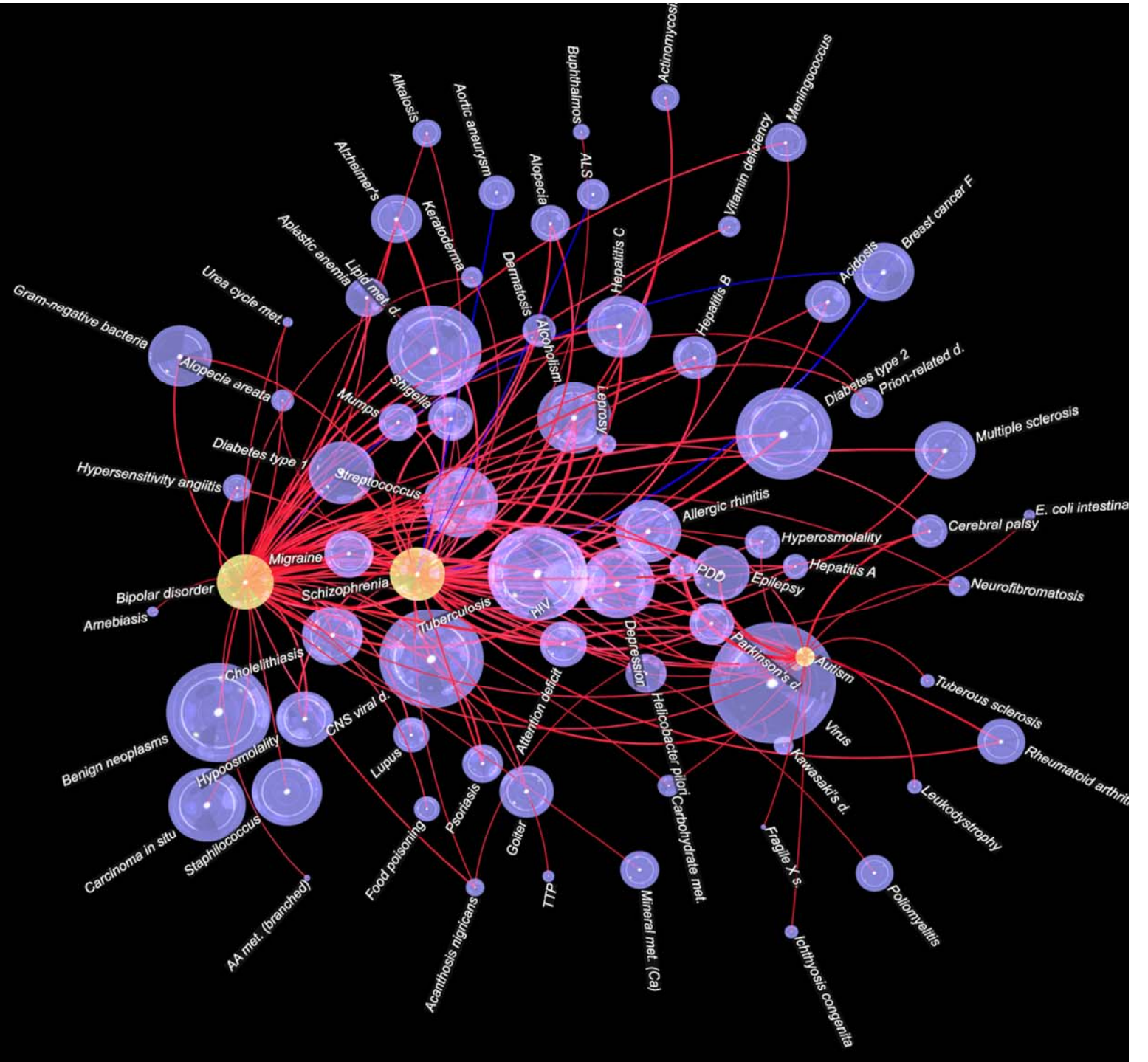


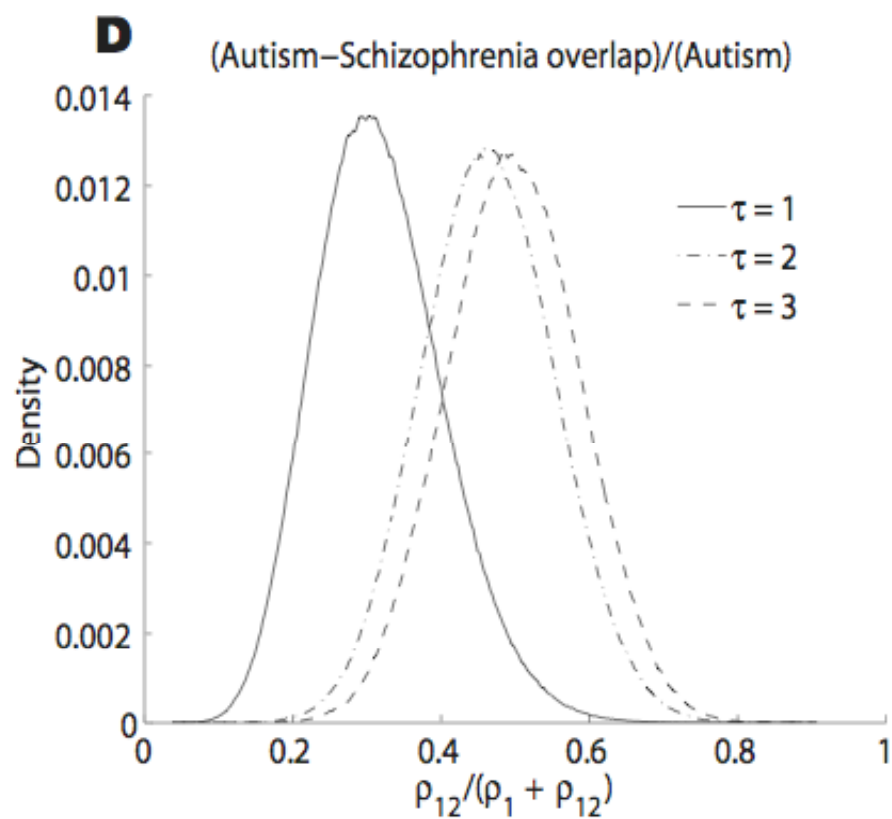
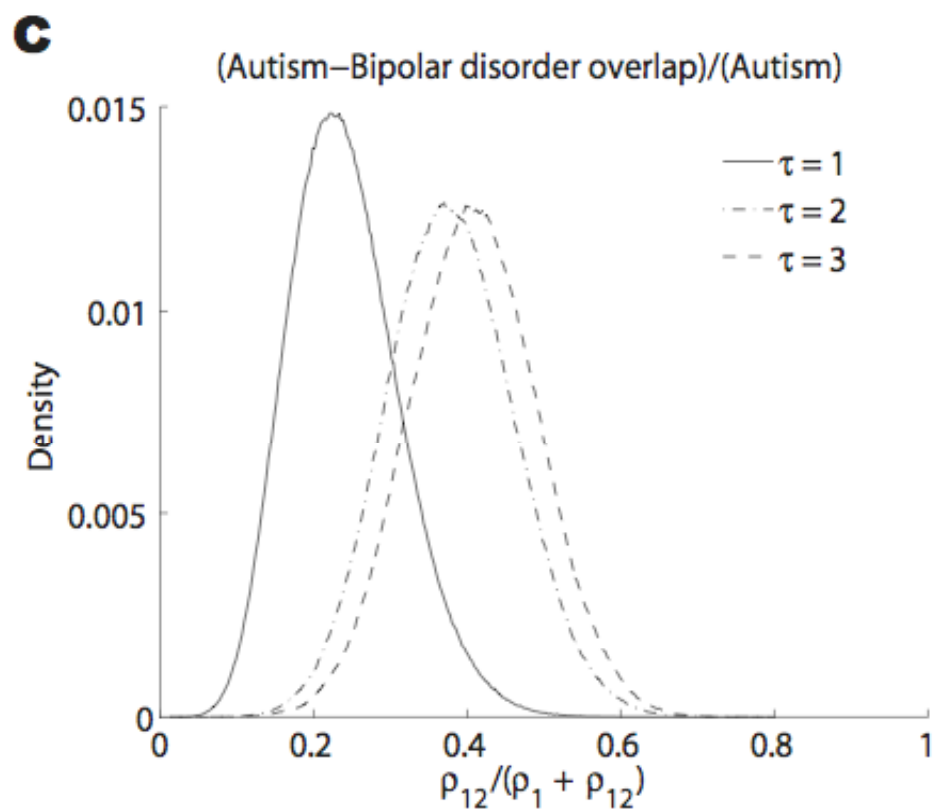
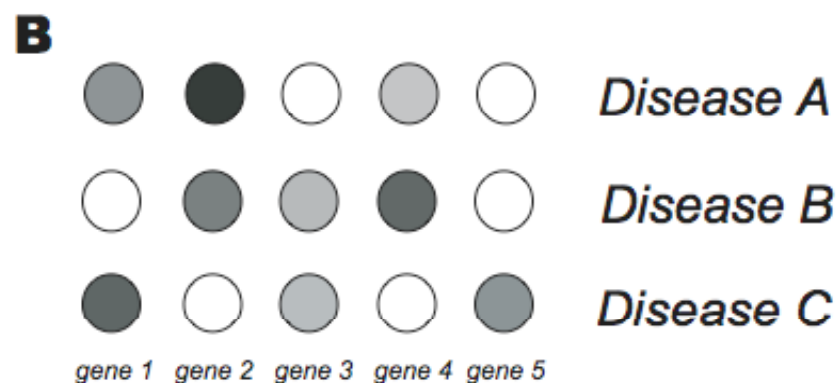
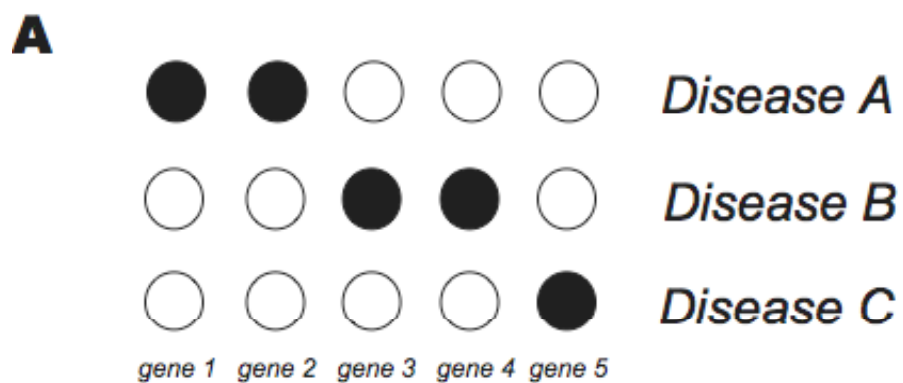
# Number of patients



$\Delta$

- 3218.5 (share)
- 427.3 (share)
- 56.7 (share)
- 7.5 (share)
- 1.0 (share)
- 2.1 (compete)
- 4.4 (compete)
- 9.3 (compete)
- 19.7 (compete)
- 41.4 (compete)





This genetic overlap was only a hypothesis in 2007

Now it is confirmed experimentally in multiple independent studies



# Some horn-blowing...

## Technology PUBLISHED BY MIT Review

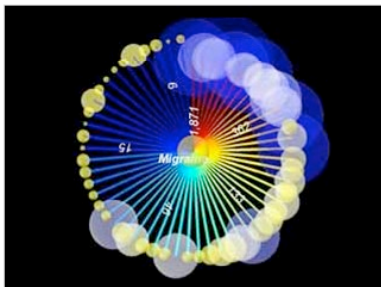


### Mapping Complex Diseases

A computer model of epidemiological data from 1.5 million people illuminates the genetic origins of many common diseases.

By KATHERINE BOURZAC  
July 9, 2007

Researchers at Columbia University have mapped the overlap between 161 different diseases by studying epidemiological data from 1.5 million patients. Among their findings is a strong overlap between schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism, suggesting that these three diseases may be caused by a shared group of genes. The researchers hope others will use their map to further investigate the genetic bases of the diseases they studied—genetics that in most cases are poorly understood.



The maps reveal connections between migraine and other diseases, such as infections. (Andrey Rzhetsky)

Certain diseases caused by single genetic mutations are correlated with other conditions in well-known ways, says Andrey Rzhetsky, the leader of the mapping project, who is now a professor of genetic medicine at the University of Chicago. For example, the same mutation in the gene for hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in the blood, causes sickle-cell anemia but protects against malaria. Unlike sickle-cell anemia, however, most diseases aren't caused by a single mutation. The genetic factors underlying most common diseases, such as diabetes, addiction, and heart

disease, are complex and poorly understood. But Rzhetsky found connections between genetically complex diseases, too.



Neurology Today:  
7 August 2007 - Volume 7 - Issue 15 - pp 1,14-15  
doi: 10.1097/01.NT.0000286902.40154.71  
Article

### A New Model for Mining Data on Shared Phenotypes for Autism, Schizophrenia, and Bipolar Illness

Talan, Jamie

[Back to Top](#) | [Article Outline](#)

#### ARTICLE IN BRIEF

✓ Biostatisticians used a complex mathematical formula to chart associations among disparate diseases, including autism, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

Scientists have mined information from 1.5 million medical charts in an attempt to find shared genotypes that could explain groups of illnesses that either track together or put people at higher risk for multiple neurological and psychiatric problems, including autism, schizophrenia, migraine, and bipolar illness.

Andrey Rzhetsky, PhD, professor of medicine and human genetics at the University of Chicago, got the idea for this mathematical model while at Columbia University Medical Center. An expert biostatistician, he had access to 1.5 million patient records from the medical center over a 20-year period.

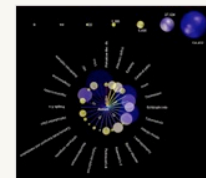


Figure. A mathematic...

# Some horn-blowing...

# DISCOVER

Science, Technology, and The Future

## SPECIAL ISSUE SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

David Charbonneau's  
Radical Plan To  
Find Life Beyond Earth

### Satellite Wars

China's Shot  
Heard Round The  
World

### Can We Cure Aging?

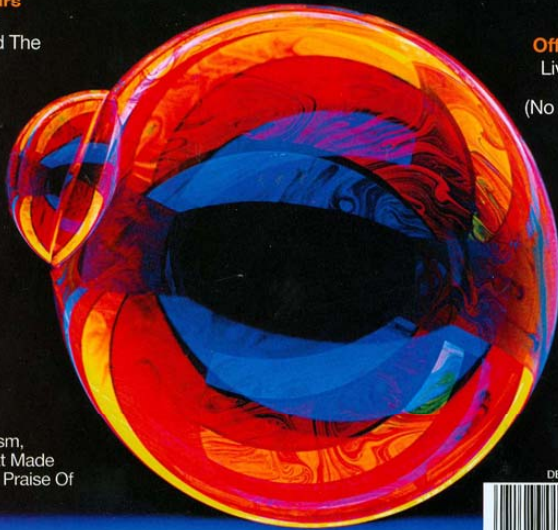
How To Beat  
The Disease Of  
Growing Old

### The 6 Greatest Experiments

Building Silicon  
Brains, Trapping  
Dark Matter

### Off The Grid

Live Without  
Electricity  
(No Scrimping  
Required)

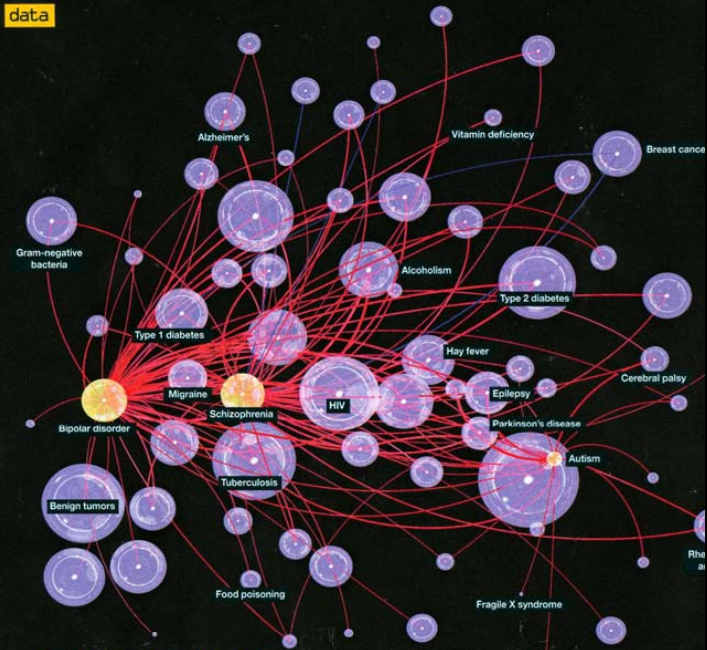


**PLUS**  
Mapping Autism,  
The Food That Made  
Us Human, In Praise Of  
Selfishness

DECEMBER 2007



data



## SIX DEGREES OF AUTISM Connecting complex diseases

**Researchers at Columbia**  
University gathered clinical data from 1.5 million patients with 161 different diseases and put the findings together to explore commonalities. Then they created a map (above) that focuses on the connections among schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism (in yellow)—three complex neurodevelopmental diseases with poorly understood genetic components. Each bubble represents a distinct disease or a disorder that is linked with one or more of these three diseases, and the size of each bubble represents the number of patients with the condition (from 9 to 136,633). Red lines link diseases that frequently appear together, and purple lines link those that are least likely to occur together.

**THE BIG THREE**  
Psychiatrists have long suspected that schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism have similar genetic underpinnings, but this map is the first to demonstrate just how much common ground the three diseases share. The results suggest that genetic variations could predispose a person to all three disorders.

**FIGHTING CANCER**  
Most of the correlations on the map are positive, hinting that the same genetic mutations can cause more than one disorder. But some diseases were found to compete with one another. Women with breast cancer, for example, were not likely to have schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, and vice versa. Andrey Rzhetsky, who led the group that

created the map, says this makes sense. Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder involve abnormal cell death (in the brain), while breast cancer involves abnormal cell growth.

**HOSTILE TAKEOVER**  
Judging from the amount of overlap with infectious diseases like tuberculosis and AIDS, the same genes that dictate susceptibility to infection could also influence susceptibility to the big three neurological disorders. Alternatively, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism could be collateral damage from an infecting pathogen.

**MUTINY OF THE BODY**  
Some of the bubbles on this map represent autoimmune disorders like rheumatoid arthritis. With these,

the immune system identifies the body's own cells as foreign and launches an attack. Rzhetsky speculates that in some cases, th three neurodevelopmental diseases could be collateral damage from biological maturing of the neurons.

**BLAME THE BOTTLE**  
Alcoholism regularly occurred with both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. But "alcoholism also tigt correlates with other psychiatric traits" like depression, Rzhetsky says. Do the illnesses and alcohol dependency stem from the same genes, or is one disease caused by the other? Rzhetsky hopes the map—which raises such question will inspire future research and eventually answers.

Joeclyn Ric



Murat Çokol



Pablo A. Duboué



Shawn M. Gomez



Igor Feldman



Carol Friedman



Vasileios  
Hatzivassiloglou



Marc Hadfield



Ivan Iossifov



Sidonie Jones



Tomohiro Koike



Pauline Kra



Michael Krauthammer



Mitzi Morris



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Raul  
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Chani Weinreb



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W. John Wilbur



Hong Yu

# Financial support comes from



Thank you!

