

Lack of data from people of color marring ancestry reports from 23andMe

I did a 23andMe [genetic test](#)...[but] I doubt that most 23andMe users realize how paltry the company's data is for non-Caucasians. For example: The data set that 23andMe used to generate my report has 76 Koreans in it....

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Based on the 23andMe report, I have zero Middle-Eastern genetic markers.

Also, astonishingly, the report shows that I am 13.4% Japanese and 14% Chinese—and only 61.6% Korean.

...

I asked [Spencer] Wells whether my percentage breakdowns of Korean, Chinese, and Japanese meant anything...Wells said that...[a] problem with the data is that “Most of those [samples] are from the US. They’re not terribly useful for studies of indigenous composition—which is effectively what this analysis is trying to do.”

...

Could the company be doing a better job with collecting ethnographic data? “Absolutely they could,” Wells said, “but it’s not their *raison d’être*.” Which, of course, is pharma and health research. Fair enough—it’s their money. But how about a disclaimer attached to the ancestry part of the report?

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [23andMe has a problem when it comes to ancestry reports for people of color](#)