

Reflections on methods to estimate race and ancestry on reference osteological samples in the Brazilian context

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Introduction

BRAZIL

Very few identified osteological collections.

Institute of Teaching and Research in Forensic Sciences (IEPCF) – Guarulhos – Cemetery Collection



Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) – Laboratory of Archaeological Studies (LEA) – Teaching and Research Center of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology (NEPAAF)



PROVAF

Validation Project of metric and non-metric methods in Forensic Anthropology
143 skeletons – documented sample

Foundations of Forensic Anthropology

Identified collections (with *antemortem* records of sex, age-at-death, stature, etc.) are essential for developing and testing methods in forensic anthropology.

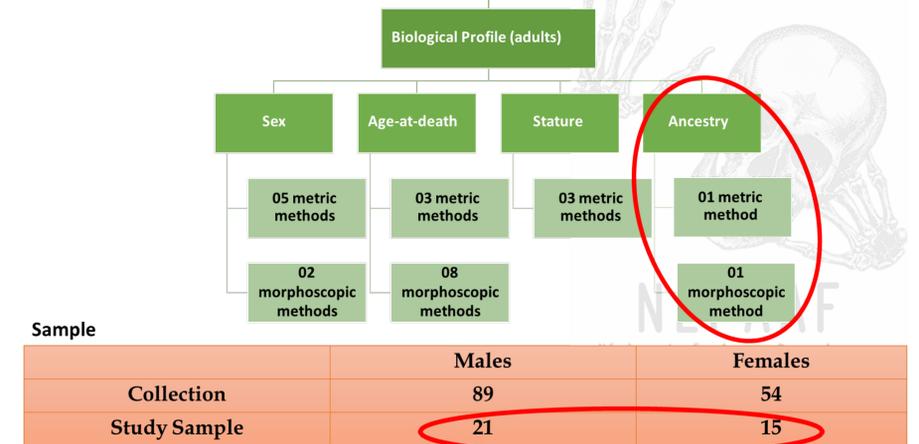
Forensic anthropologists use data collected from the skeleton to estimate age-at-death, sex, and stature to assist with preliminary identification of an unknown individual.

In some jurisdictions, race or ancestry is considered part of identification for social, cultural, economic and political reasons.

The “race” concept has been convincingly rejected by many researchers as biologically invalid.

Methodology

PROVAF – Standard Operating Protocol (SOP)



Methodology and Rationale for Assessing Results

Category 1: the method provides useful information by matching the antemortem record with some certainty with a score greater than 0.80.

Category 2: the method provides a weak match where the highest score matches the antemortem record and is at least 0.10 higher than next highest score, but score is less than 0.80.

Category 3: the results are considered ambiguous if the difference in scores between two or more allocations is less than 0.10. It does not matter if the highest score matches the antemortem record because all the scores are too close to make any conclusive statement.

Category 4: the group with highest score does not match the antemortem record and is at least 0.10 higher than next highest score, but the score is less than 0.80.

Category 5: the group with highest score does not match the antemortem record and the score is greater than 0.80.

Results

n = 36		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	
AncesTrees	n	2	12	4	11	7	
	%	6	33	11	31	19	= 50%
Hefner 2009	n	9	4	6	10	7	
	%	25	11	17	28	19	= 47%