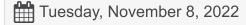
4221 - Racial Discrimination and Interpersonal Violence in Asian Adolescents in the COVID-19 Pandemic





2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

♀ *BCEC - 257A*

Session: COVID-19 in Pediatric & Adolescent Populations

Program: Epidemiology

Abstract

Background: Racial discrimination targeting Asians in the U.S. has sharply increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite its well-established link with psychological/physical health outcomes, little is known about how racial discrimination relates to interpersonal violence, particularly in adolescents. Objective: This study examined cross-sectional and temporal associations between racial discrimination and interpersonal violence (i.e., bullying victimization, bullying perpetration, and fighting).

Methods: Waves 3 (W3, 2020) and 4 (W4, 2021) data of a randomized clinical trial of a school-based violence prevention program were examined. This study used the Asian adolescent subsample (n = 344), including 166 (48.3%) females with an average age of 14.43 years in W3 (SD = .51).

Results: At W3, 18.3% of Asian adolescents reported experiencing verbal harassment (VH) due to their race and 16.0% reported being treated worse than people of another race. Multilevel multivariate logistic regression analysis found both VH (AOR=4.65, 95% CI:1.85,11.65) and worse treatment (AOR=4.86, 95% CI:1.62,14.55) were cross-sectionally associated with higher likelihood of being bullied by peers, controlling for age, gender, living situation, and intervention effects. Furthermore, VH experiences increased the likelihood of Asian adolescents bullying others (AOR=3.49, 95%CI:1.86,6.55) cross-sectionally. Temporarily, adolescents who experienced VH were more likely to engage in fighting (AOR=4.79, 95%CI:1.21,18.96) one year later, even after controlling for demographic characteristics and prior year fighting behaviors. No significant cross-sectional association was identified for fighting nor temporal association for bullying.

Conclusions: Findings suggest racial discrimination experiences can contribute to

interpersonal violence. It is vital for violence prevention to include components to address racial discrimination.

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