Flexible resources and experiences of racism among a multiethnic adolescent population in Aotearoa, New Zealand: an intersectional analysis of health and socioeconomic inequities using survey data

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1 The study

Participants: 20,410 high school students aged 13-17 from Māori, Pasifika, European, ethnic minority* and migrant origins.


Outcome: socioeconomic and health inequity, and interpersonal discrimination as indicators of racism.

*Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American or African

Key limitation: A proof-of-concept analysis as survey data were not collected specifically for this study.

2 Findings

Structural resources, but more substantially embodiment resources, reduce experiences of racism for minorities and migrant youth.

Indigenous Māori experience persistent historical disadvantage.

Disadvantage continues for at least three ‘migrant-generations’ for Pasifika and ethnic minority youth.

Flexible Resources

Structural Resources

Non-ethnic minority migrant

High-income country of origin

3rd generation migrant

Perceived as White

Embodyment Resource

3 Research context

Before the study
Racism generally seen as asymmetrical relationship between privileged/white and minority/racialised groups.

Added value
We examined racism using the concept of structural (wealth) and embodiment (perceived Whiteness) flexible resources.

Implications
Flexible resources give minorities differential protection against racism. Antiracism interventions must be tailored accordingly.

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