

Adolescents who report being discriminated against tend to prioritize materialistic goals like being famous and rich, and having “the right image”

Why do Extrinsically-Motivated Youth Experience Greater Distress?

Alexandra V. Horton, B.S. Tyler Pederson, B.S., Daniel G. Lannin, Ph.D, Luke T. Russell, Ph.D., Ani Yazedjian, Ph.D, & Jeremy B. Kanter, Ph.D.



MEASURES

- **Discrimination.** The *Everyday Discrimination Scale (Short Version)* assessed adolescents' experiences with discrimination and their perceptions of the reason these experiences occurred (Sternthal, Slopen, & Williams, 2011). This measure includes 5 items with a follow up question about perceptions of the reason behind the discrimination.
- **Materialistic Values Orientation.** The *Aspiration Index (AI)* assessed adolescents' life goals (Kasser & Ryan, 1996). The measure was modified and included 10 items related to intrinsic ($\alpha=.76$) and extrinsic ($\alpha=.81$) life goals. MVO was found by subtracting extrinsic from intrinsic scores. ($\alpha=.77$)

RESULTS

- Hayes (2018) PROCESS analyses tested direct and indirect effects in our hypothesized model via conducting 5,000 bias-corrected bootstrapped samples.
- Results indicated identifying as Black/African American (compared to White) directly predicted MVO ($\beta = .52, p = .006$).
- Similarly, perceived discrimination significantly predicted MVO ($\beta = .22, p = .005$).
- However, the indirect effects from Latinx and Black/African American racial status via discrimination were not significant predictors of MVO ($\beta = -.11, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.25, 0.003]$; ($\beta = .01, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.08, 0.10]$).

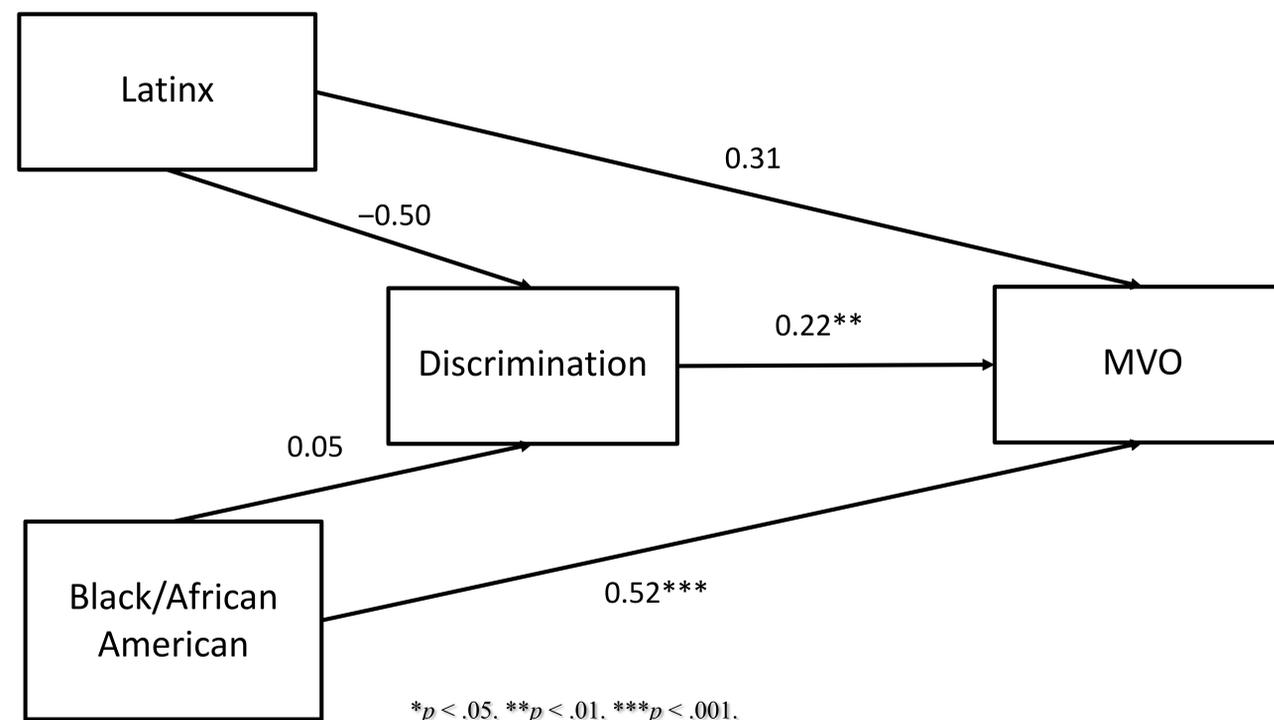
INTRO

- Materialistic Values Orientation (MVO) is an orientation where individuals prioritize goals centered around consumerism (Kasser, Ryan, Couchman & Sheldon, 2004)
 - Goals such as: financial success, cultivating an attractive appearance, and being famous/popular
- When individuals feel threatened, they are more likely to compensate by pursuing goals related to MVO (Kasser, 2016).
- Discrimination is threatening to marginalized individuals and may be one avenue by which marginalized populations are urged toward greater MVO.

METHODS

- $N = 163$ youth (ages 14-21) participated in the Champaign Area Relationship Education for Youth (CARE4U) program

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

- The study found that greater experiences of perceived discrimination predicted greater MVO across racial identities.
- Holding materialistic values is related to negative outcomes that impact financial, social, educational, and physical well-being (Kasser, 2016), this suggests that increasing MVO may be a way that discrimination harms marginalized populations.



Funding for this research was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (Grant #90FM0076). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this poster are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.