

Social Sciences Examples

Title: *Muslim American Students' Mental Health Study*

Project Description:

Purpose/Role

Islamophobia is a “social stigma toward Islam and Muslims, dislike of Muslims as a political force, and a distinct construct referring to xenophobia and racism toward Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim” (Samari et al., 2018). Islamophobia skyrocketed after the 9/11 attacks. Discrimination towards Muslims based on unfounded hate can take on various forms, including microaggressions and physical and verbal assault. Various accounts have taken place in institutions, such as schools (Aroian, 2011), as well as in public settings. In schools, for example, many accounts of discrimination reported by students were from a staff member. The lack of training and accountability allows for the accounts of school staff, such as teachers, to openly discriminate without repercussions. Muslim American students have also reported not being able to get support from school counselors due to their lack of knowledge on how to approach situations caused by Islamophobia (Albdour et al., 2016).

Studies have shown that Muslim Americans who experience a greater frequency of discrimination in school settings report higher levels of psychological distress (Oberoi & Trickett, 2018). The effect Islamophobia has on students’ mental health is widely overlooked and under-researched. Many students reported having an identity crisis, a decrease in self-confidence, and insecurity to practice their religion and culture freely due to the discrimination they faced (Albdour et al., 2016; Chaudry, 2019; Oberoi & Trickett, 2018) . Therefore, I am proposing to conduct a qualitative study on Muslim American students’ encounters with Islamophobia in school settings and its impact on their mental health in North Carolina. I will further explore whether social media plays a role in the spread of Islamophobia in school settings. I will do so by conducting interviews and focus groups. The target population would be Muslim students in North Carolina, ranging from middle school to university.

Research questions

- 1) What are Muslim American students’ experiences with Islamophobia in middle, high school, and university school settings?
- 2) In what ways do Muslim American students cope with discrimination and/or mental health issues?
- 3) Does social media play a role in coping and/or experiencing discrimination among Muslim American students?

My role will be lead researcher and I will be responsible for recruiting participants, conducting interviews/focus groups, analyzing data, and disseminating results.

Participant Incentives

This proposed study will target 40 Muslim American students across North Carolina. Participants will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card for their participation.

Budget Requested: Assistantship \$1000 and Other Expenses \$1000; Total of \$2000

Other Expenses Description:

This proposed study will target 40 Muslim American students across North Carolina. Participants will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card for their participation, totaling \$1,000.

Title: *HPV infection and vaccination among US immigrants*

Project Description:

Purpose:

To examine whether race/ethnicity is associated with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection and vaccination among foreign-born populations of United States and determine the moderating impact of gender on this association.

Hypothesis:

We hypothesize that the rates of HPV infections will be higher and HPV vaccination will be lower among racial/ethnic minority foreign-born individuals compared with foreign-born whites. These associations will be stronger for women than men.

Significance:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a vastly studied disease in the United States, however, there is limited data on the rate of HPV infection amongst foreign-born individuals. Furthermore, there is also limited data on the rate of HPV vaccination, which reduces the risk of HPV infections among different foreign-born population subgroups. While some foreign-born individuals may be from countries with high risks of cervical cancer, and low screening and vaccination rates, less is known about their infection and vaccination status after migrating to the United States. While US-born white women have a higher HPV-related cervical cancer survival rate than foreign-born women (71% vs. 58%), the research among foreign-born women is limited. Therefore, the study of HPV infections and vaccination uptake within the foreign-born population is essential in identifying ways to prevent HPV-related cancers among this group. Finding from this study will aid in the development for intervention strategies to improve HPV vaccination uptake among foreign-born populations, particularly in states with a substantial proportion of various immigrant sub-groups, such as North Carolina.

Methodology:

This study will be a secondary data analysis of the 2007-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data on genital HPV samples (18-34 years, N=4967). The outcome variables will be HPV infections (participants positive for HPV types 6, 11, or 18) and HPV vaccination uptake. The main independent variables will include race/ethnicity (White, African American, Hispanic, and Asian) and gender. Additional independent variables including

number of lifetime sexual partners, health access factors (health insurance status, usual source of health care, reproductive care utilization), and acculturation factors (length of US residency, language preference, citizenship status). Bivariable comparisons will be made using Chi-square test, and T-test statistics to examine differences among foreign-born race/ethnic groups. Multivariate binary logistic regression analysis will be used to test whether race/ethnicity is associated with HPV infection and vaccination, controlling for the health access and acculturation factors. Regression models will also control for sociodemographic factors. The data will be analyzed using SAS statistical analysis software.

Budget Requested: Assistantship \$1000; Total of \$1000.

Other Expenses Description:

NA