The impact of race and ethnicity on school and work outcomes among youth and young adults with disabilities: A scoping review



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BACKGROUND

- Youth with disabilities encounter many health and social challenges, and specifically those who belong to ethnically diverse backgrounds are at a greater risk to experience a difficult transition to adulthood
- Post-secondary education and employment outcomes in this vulnerable population requires greater attention to create more positive outcomes, starting with health professionals providing culturally-sensitive care for those with individualized needs
- Ethnic minority youth with disabilities often do not have proper resources to obtain independence and autonomy in adulthood unlike other youth
- Existing research shows that poorer adulthood outcomes are evident among youth with disabilities from ethnic minority groups rather than youth who do not belong to minority groups
- Examining different cultural perspectives can enhance outcomes for youth and their families, while prioritizing different values about adulthood

OBJECTIVE

To explore the impact of race and ethnicity on school and work outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.

METHODS

- Study Design
- Scoping review guidelines by Arksey and O'Malley were used to synthesize the empirical literature
- The research question guiding the review was: what is the impact of race and ethnicity on school and work outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities?
- Data Sources
- CINHAL, PsychInfo, Embase, Medline, HealthStar, Scopus, ERIC and Sociological abstracts
- Key Words

Criteria

- Race, ethnicity, culture, disability, youth and young adults
- Published in peer-reviewed journal in English or French from 2000 to April 2021
- Involved a sample of youth and young adults (up to age 30) with a disability and common childhood disabilities were included
- Had at least one quantitative finding focusing on the impact of race and ethnicity on a school or work outcome

RESULTS

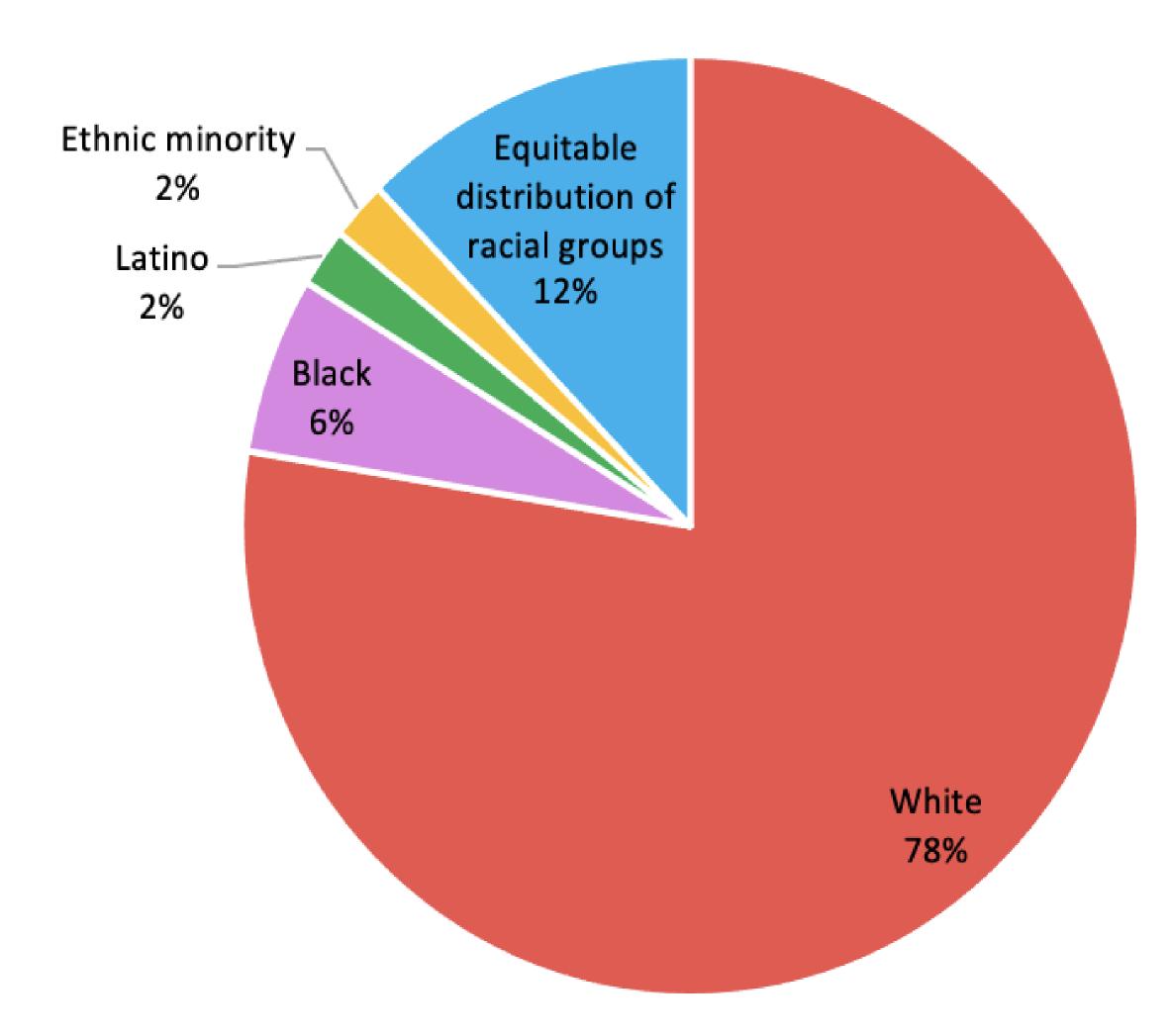


Figure 1: Racial and Ethnic composition of Samples

- 49 studies conducted in the US over a 21 year period met the inclusion criteria
- 21 studies described the impact of race and ethnicity on school outcomes
- 13 of these studies concluded that ethnic minority youth with disabilities have poorer school outcomes compared to White youth with disabilities
- 33 studies described the impact of race and ethnicity on employment outcomes
- 18 of these studies concluded that ethnic minority youth with disabilities have poorer employment outcomes compared to other youth with disabilities

Differences in cultural beliefs

Family and parental expectations for youth

Factors Influencing School and Work Outcomes

Inequitable access to useful resources and health services

Discrimination among disability and racial groups

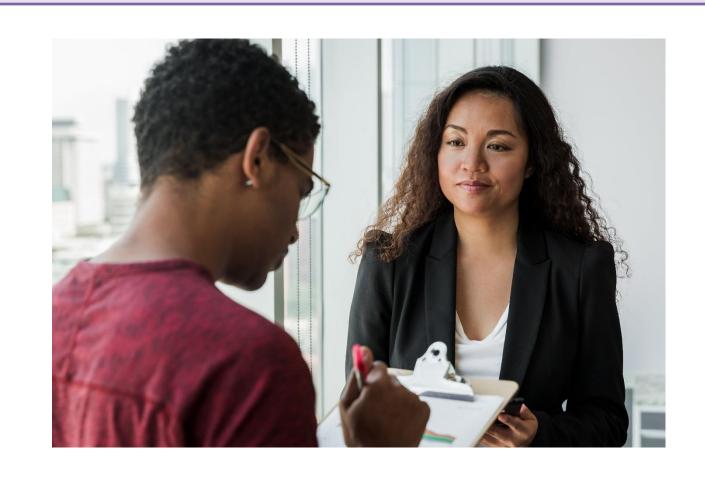


IMPLICATIONS

Educators and clinicians should advocate for various school and work resources and transition training for youth to overcome any obstacles they may face

Training involving the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, and disability for healthcare professionals is necessary to provide better personalized and sensitive care for individuals

Clinicians should use effective communication and listening skills to build a trustworthy and understanding relationship with youth



CONCLUSION

- Our review showed the majority of the studies focusing on the impact of race and ethnicity on school and work found that ethnic minority youth with a disability had poorer school and work outcomes compared to White youth with disabilities
- Factors influencing this trend include differences in cultural values, priorities and expectations, inequitable access to resources, and discrimination

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future research is needed to investigate the complexity of the intersections between disability and ethnic backgrounds.

Understanding the experiences and inequalities that youth and young adults face can help improve their outcomes in the future.

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