The Effect of Anti-Racism Strategies on Vaccinations

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What is the role of institutional efforts in combating systemic racism on COVID-19 health behaviors?

Introduction
- Diversity cues are related to perceptions of safety. Beneficial outcomes from addressing experiences of prejudice and culturally-inclusive practices.

Methods
- Secondary data analysis, using a multilevel model
  - **Health equity content**: State COVID-19 response websites (N = 51) were coded for the presence and content of health equity responses
  - **County vaccination rates**: N = 3140; vaccination rates from October 25, 2021
  - **Covariates**: County political leaning, Social Vulnerability Index, COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index.

Results
- No difference between states with no health equity content vs. generic resources
- No difference between states with generic content vs. anti-racism strategies

Discussion
- Future intervention point in increasing rates of other public health behaviors
- The current pandemic is constantly evolving, thus the differences in vaccination rates at this single point in time may not be indicative of future differences
- Health equity content at the state level may not be as psychologically salient
- Replicate using county health department websites to test the effect of changes within an individual community

Future directions:
- We plan to conduct an experimental manipulation of health department content to establish the role of anti-racism strategies on health behaviors

References

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COVID-19 Vaccine - Equity and Engagement
The Washington State Department of Health recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone but has not impacted everyone equally. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on existing health inequities, amplified them, and revealed their root causes.