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ACADEMIC RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN & LATINA/O ADOLESCENTS: A STUDY OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, DISCRIMINATION, & GPA

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Literature Review

Academic Resilience:

- •Academic success despite statistical unlikelihood (Morales & •79 Afr Amer & Latina/o HS students (38% response) Trotman, 2010)
- •Studies of successful students to better understand traits and factors that contribute to success.

Discrimination:

- Discrimination is a regular and significant part of life for many students of color in the U.S. (Greene, Way, & Pahl, 2006; Rosenbloom & Way, 2004)
- Ability to recognize discrimination begins developing around 5 or 6, and is well-developed by age 10 (Brown & Bigler, 2005)
- •Neblett et al. (2006) found that student perceptions of discrimination negatively predicted three academic outcomes (self-reported GPA, academic curiosity, and academic persistence) among 548 African American students in grades 7 to 10

Trait Emotional Intelligence:

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- "self-perceptions concerning one's ability to recognize, process, and utilize emotion-laden information" (Petrides et al., 2004, p. 278)
- Studies have linked EI and academic achievement in high school and college students (Parker, Creque, et al., 2004; Parker, Summerfeldt et al., 2004; Schutte et al., 1998), although this is not universally supported (see Bastian, Burns, & Nettelbeck, 2005; Mavroveli & Sánchez-Ruiz, 2011; Newsome, Day, & Catano, 2000; O' Connor & Little, 2003) •EI & academics with diverse samples:
 - Ford, Kokjie, and Lewis (1996): El contributed 5.5% of variance to academic resilience
 - Morales (2008; 2010) qualitative research, assigned El key place in Resilience Cycle

Current Study

Methods:

- •El measure: *TEIQue—ASF* (Petrides et al., 2006)
- •Disc measure: School Disc Scale (MADICS Study; Eccles, et al.)

Question 1: To what extent do El & discrimination predict GPA in Afr Amer & Latina/o HS students?

- •No relationship in sample : F(2, 71) = 2.098, p = .13
- •Sig model for males: F(2, 26) = 3.921, p = .032
- •17.3% of the variance in GPA

Question 2: Does El moderate the relationship between discrimination and GPA?

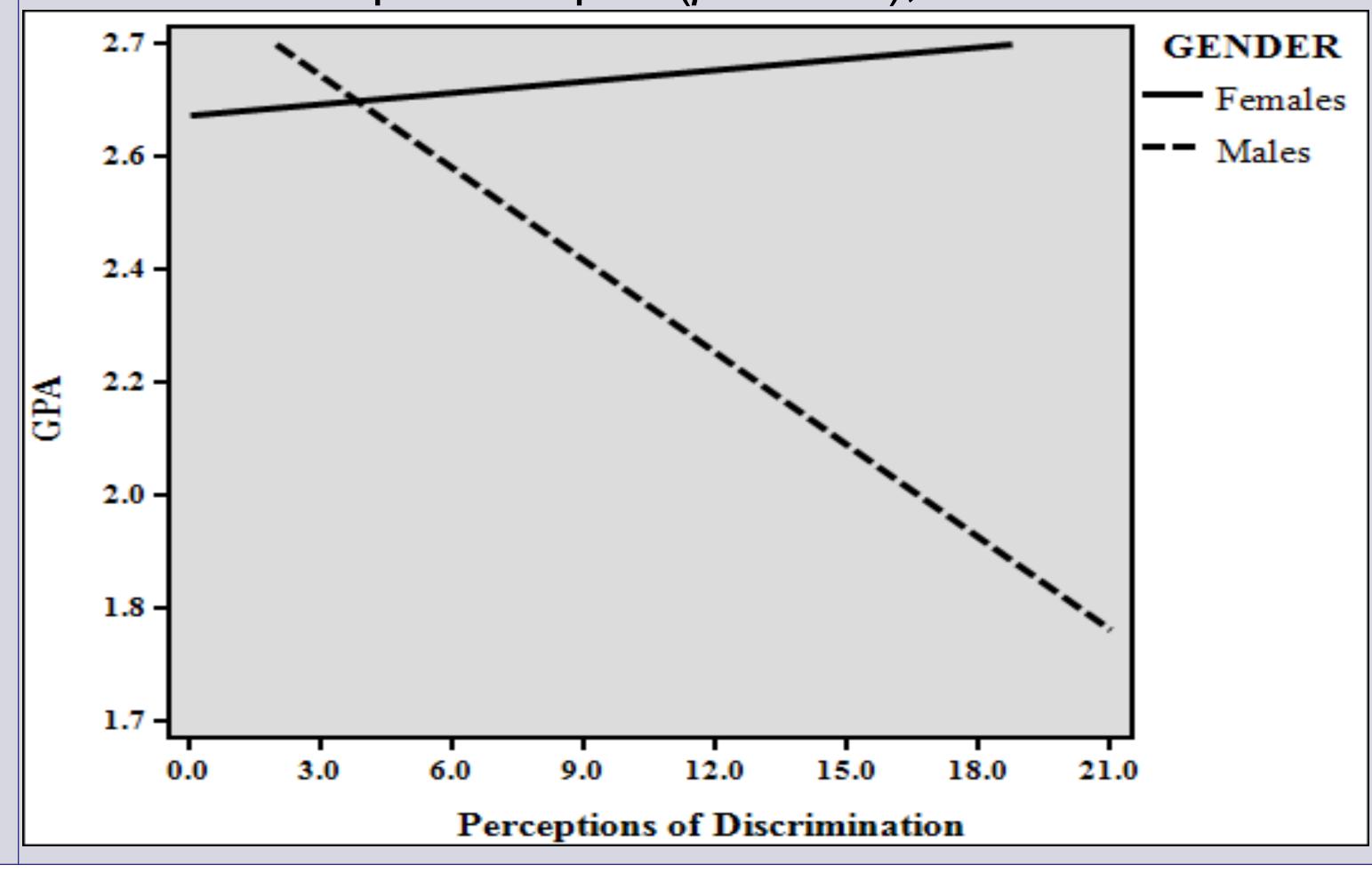
•No relationship in sample: (p = .827)

Question 3: Is there a difference by gender in perceptions of discrimination at school?

•No significant difference (t(45) = .79, p = .434)

Question 4: Does gender moderate the relationship between discrimination and GPA in the sample?

•No relationship in sample: (p = .057), BUT:



Implications

Gender Matters:

- •Sig model for males, but not females
- •Supports previous research: (Alfaro et al., 2009; Chavous et al., 2008; Cogburn et al., 2011)
- •Reasons are unclear, but socialization may play a role (Azmitia & Brown, 2000; Valenzuela, 1999)

Discrimination:

- Contributed to GPA in males, but not females. Why?
- Counselors/educators must work to reduce disc
- School wide: cultural awareness and competency of school staff (Hollie, 2011; Singleton, 2005), anti-racism with students (Insley, 2010; West Metro Education Program, 2013)
- Individuals: Increased ethnic identify may mitigate the impact of disc on Latina/o students (Umana-Taylor, Vargas-Chanes, Garcia, & Gonzales-Backen, 2008); strong group connectedness (O'Connor, 1999; Sanders, 1997; Ward, 1990) and a positive group identity (Wong et al., 2003) can shield students; Sample group in school: "The Brotherhood" (Wyatt, 2009)

Emotional Intelligence:

- Contributed to GPA in males, but not females. Why?
- Findings conflict with those of qualitative researchers (Morales, 2010). Why?

More Research Needed:

- Role of gender in academic resilience
- Role of El

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- •Role of discrimination—especially in males
- Other factors contributing to academic success
- Longitudinal studies
- •Advanced quantitative methods (SEM, etc.)



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