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Importance of Ethnicity:

Differences in reported discrimination towards Muslim students

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Perceived Discrimination

Numerous studies have reported on the negative impact of perceived discrimination on health of Arabs and Muslims (Ahmed, Kia-Keating, Tsai, 2011; Rippy & Neuman, 2006). However, it is unknown if discrimination is experienced at similar rates among co-religionists. To date, there have been no studies exploring perceived discriminatory experiences of Muslims by ethnicity.

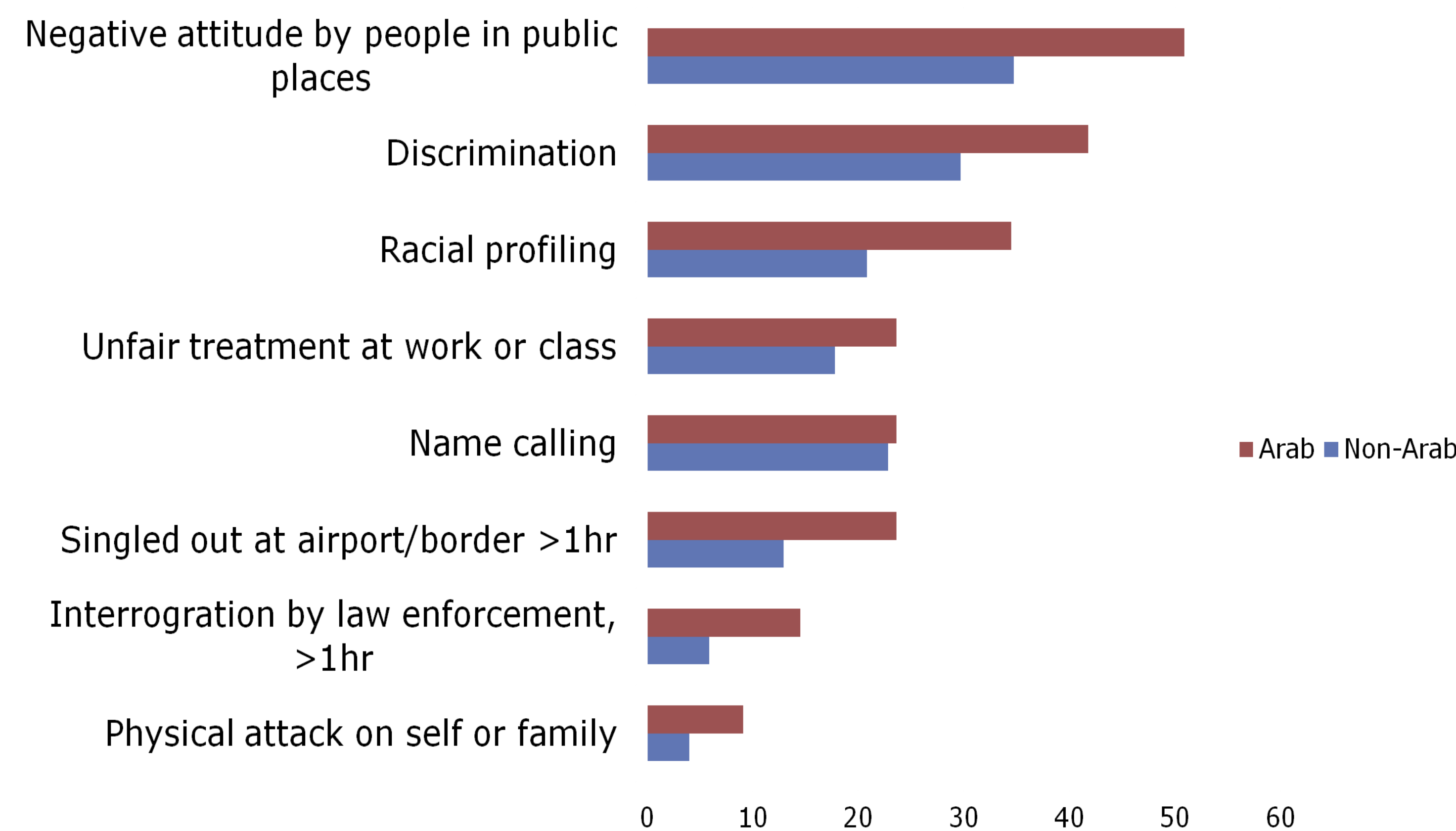
Hypothesis

Arab Muslim student will report similar recent discriminatory experiences compared to other non-Arab Muslim students.

Methods

Respondent-driven sampling was used to recruit self-identified Muslim undergraduates to complete a web-based survey (2010-11) at one large U.S. urban commuter university. Responses of Arab Muslim student were compared to non-Arab Muslim students on a 8-item measure of perceived discrimination.

Arab Muslim students more likely to report past year discrimination



Arab students reported more past year discriminatory experiences than non-Arab Muslim students (2.25 vs. 1.51; $p=.030$). In multivariate analysis, **only ethnicity was significantly associated with discrimination.**

Arab and non-Arab Muslim students were **similar** on age, gender (69% females), number of close friends, level of acculturation, religious influence and practice, importance of ethnic activities, community service, or political activities.

	Arab Muslim (n=55)	Non Arab Muslim (n=101)
Immigrant*	41.8%	65.3%
Muslims in high school, 30%+**	76.4%	36.5%
Muslim neighbors, 30%+*	67.3%	45.4%
Live with parents*	94.5%	77.6%

* $p<.01$, ** $p<.001$

Limitations

They include: reliance on secondary data analysis, the lack of objective verification of perceived discriminatory experience, and sampled from one university.

Conclusions

Muslim Arab college students reported higher level of perceived past year discrimination than non-Arab Muslims student.

Discrimination continues to occur and may contribute to identity formation among Arab Muslim emerging adults.

Additional studies are needed to understand the impact of the discrimination on Arab youth identity and the coping mechanisms utilized.

References

- Ahmed, S. R., Kia-Keating, M., & Tsai, K. H. (2011). A structural model of racial discrimination, acculturative stress, and cultural resources among Arab American adolescents. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 48, 181-192. doi: 10.1007/s10464-011-9424-3
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