

**Title:** Unique, but Not Interactive, Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Race on Cognitive Decline

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**BACKGROUND:**

Along with race/ethnicity, the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) may persist, influencing cognitive decline in late life. However, the effects of ACEs are unequally distributed across racial and ethnic groups. We examine whether race alters the effects of ACEs on cognitive health.

**METHODS:**

Data from 1916 adults (M age ~ 67) who completed the 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System are used. Between 25% and 56.6% reported some form of each ACE.

**RESULTS:**

An omnibus moderated regression showed significant effects for non-White adults ( $F(3,1901) = 30.97, p < .001$ ). Fewer ACEs and white non-Hispanic identity were uniquely associated with cognitive health; the two did not interact. A series of nine moderated regressions was conducted. Although main effects emerged, in no case did race modify the effect of ACEs on cognitive health.

**DISCUSSION:**

It is important to examine areas in which race does and does not serve as a moderator of health disparities. Thus, future research may further investigate the independent and dependent relations of being a part of a minority group with individualized health dispositions.