

For black teens, online racial discrimination tied to PTSD symptoms

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For Black adolescents, individual online racial discrimination is

associated with posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, and these symptoms are associated with suicidal ideation, according to a study published online Jan. 3 in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Brendesha M. Tynes, Ph.D., from the Center for Empowered Learning and Development With Technology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study using data drawn from the first wave of the National Survey of Critical Digital Literacy to examine the associations between online racial discrimination and [suicidal ideation](#) through [posttraumatic stress disorder](#) symptoms among Black adolescents. The analysis included 525 participants, with a mean age of 14.8 years.

The researchers found that individual online racial discrimination was associated with posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms ($\beta = 0.49$) based on a structural equation modeling analysis, and there was an association observed for posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms with suicidal ideation ($\beta = 0.51$). Posttraumatic stress disorder was a full mediator between online racial discrimination and suicide ($\beta = 0.25$). There were no differences noted by age or gender. No significant direct association was identified between online [racial discrimination](#) and suicidal ideation.

"Overall, these findings contribute to our understanding of the discrimination-suicidal ideation relationship in online settings," the authors write.

More information: Brendesha M. Tynes et al, Online Racial Discrimination, Suicidal Ideation, and Traumatic Stress in a National Sample of Black Adolescents, *JAMA Psychiatry* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2023.4961](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2023.4961)

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