



Project Title: Examining Black-White Disparities and Identifying Empowerment Solutions among Custodial Grandparent-Headed Families During COVID-19 in South Carolina: A Mixed-Methods Community-Based Study

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Eligible Participants

Elementary schools in South Carolina representative of various regions (e.g., Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry) with diverse populations (i.e., demographic make-up of school relatively evenly representative Black and White families).

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to examine White-Black disparities in South Carolina related to education of school-aged children among custodial grandparent-headed families during COVID-19 and to identify empowerment solutions to promote racial justice and equity at the system and policy levels. To the best of our knowledge, this study will be the first to examine racial disparities in custodial grandparents and their grandchildren in the face of COVID-19. This research study will draw on participants' knowledge and experiences through a combination of surveys and follow-up interviews to provide critical information related to the study's purpose. Results of this study will be used to advocate for custodial grandparents, particularly grandparents of color, to increase family resources and supports in South Carolina.

Participating Schools/School Districts' Role

We would ask partner schools/school districts to help us disseminate an initial survey (e.g., paper - via curriculum/instructional material packages and/or electronically – online or text message) to families. Survey completion should take approximately 30 minutes. We aim to survey at least 150 Black and 150 White custodial grandparents across the state and interview via focus groups 16 custodial grandparents. To compensate them for their time, survey participants will receive \$15, and focus group participants will receive \$25.

Timeframe

The start of this research study period will begin in late February 2021 and end February 2022. We anticipate that a pilot survey and pilot focus group will be held by early March 2021 and that the full-scale survey will be distributed by May 2021 and full-scale focus groups will be held September/October 2021. After completion of the study, our team will share a summary of study findings with your school through accessible means, such as a written report or presentation.

Funder

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Learn more about us

For more information on Dr. Yanfeng Xu's research visit https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/socialwork/faculty-staff/xu_yanfeng.php

For more information on the Carolina Family Engagement Center visit <https://cfec.sc.gov/>

Prepared by Yanfeng Xu and Theresa Harrison 12-15-20