

Perceived Housing Discrimination and Self-rated Health: How Do Neighborhood Features Matter?

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Abstract

While the adverse association between perceived discrimination and health has been investigated in the literature, little is known about whether and, if yes, how neighborhood characteristics moderate this association. This study situates perceived discrimination in the housing context and uses relative deprivation and social support perspectives to argue why neighborhood characteristics are moderators. Applying the logistic multilevel modeling to the 2008 Public Health Management Corporation's Southeastern Household Survey (n=9,842) and Census data, we found that (1) the detrimental effect of perceived discrimination on self-rated health was suppressed if the moderating roles of neighborhood characteristics were not considered, (2) the negative association between perceived discrimination and self-rated health was enhanced when individuals with discrimination experience lived in neighborhoods that had high housing values, and (3) the adverse association of perceived housing discrimination with self-rated health was attenuated when people who reported discrimination resided in neighborhoods featured with high concentrations of minorities or socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. This study not only confirms the moderating roles of neighborhood characteristics, but also suggests that the relative deprivation and social support mechanisms could be used to explain the moderation of the relationship between perceived housing discrimination and self-rated health.