

Infoway Social Determinants of Health Working Group

March 2, 2022

Summary Notes:

- Review of the Asian American racism-related stress inventory (AARRSI) (Miller et al., 2012)
 - We looked at the short form as well as a quick scan of the additional questions on the long form.
 - The measure is slightly different to what we have looked at previously, as it focuses on stress, and as such may be too far from our current scope. The short form also lacks any healthcare specific questions.
 - One question that is missing is “Where are you really from”. (Note: We did a search for this question after the meeting and found extensive reference to this question in the media: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/where-are-you-from-1.5195126> It highlights how racialized constructions have evolved and the need for measures also to evolve with this changing social context).
 - Many of the responses may be dependent on the context. For example, the question about ‘Your friends looks like ___’ will have a different interpretation for a racialized group.
 - The question around ‘*someone asks you what your real name is*’ may have particular relevance for digital health systems. How names can be anglicized, and the system may not be able to capture someone’s name. There are also the hidden assumptions and biases introduced through perceptions of names. Rotman study (<https://www-2.rotman.utoronto.ca/facbios/file/KangDecellesTilcsikJun2016ASQ.pdf>) illustrates how racialized minorities experience and counter the discrimination in employment opportunities by racial cues on job applications. For example, when names and experiences were “whitened” there were more callbacks on job postings for Blacks and Asians. Highlights the hidden biases that may be introduced through information in digital health systems and to complement standard with anti-racism strategies.
- Review of the Measure of Indigenous racism experiences (MIRE) (Paradies & Cunningham, 2008)
 - Reminded the group that the review of these measures also requires the feedback from the communities impacted by these inequities.
 - The MIRE was developed with Australian Indigenous communities, however, some of the questions may need to be reworded slightly to translate to a Canadian context. For example the question ‘by staff of government agencies like Centrelink, ATSI, etc.’ could be reworded to ‘government agencies in Canada’.
 - In Plain Site Report is one of the few examples in Canada we have found that uses a racism and discrimination measure. The patient questionnaire is based on the original Williams’ tool on Major and Everyday Discrimination. However, the Report also introduces questions focused on anti-racism, and in doing so may offer a way beyond measuring racism and discrimination in evaluating anti-racism strategies.
 - What does the response option in Q1 mean “this doesn’t apply to me”? It is unclear from the paper, as “not applicable” responses for question 1 were coded as missing data. The response “this doesn’t apply to me” is not a recommended response in the body of the paper, but only in the supplementary file → it may be better to remove the response option to avoid confusion?

- Overall
 - How to address the changing the questions to more specific population and for a Canadian context? By changing the questions, it impacts their validity. Yet, by not changing the questions, the measure may not be relevant to a specific population.
 - AARRSI is specific to a specific racialized group and to date we have looked at discrimination measures as the main domain and then social identities are brought in as a follow-up question. Raises questions about how to bring in racism and discrimination measures that are more targeted to a racial/ethnic/Indigenous identity.
 - One of the challenges we have faced with our group is that the social determinants of health is such a vast area. Our first task for the group was to reach a consensus on our three areas for this year. Our aim is to bring our work forward to The Gravity Project, as they are a much larger international group who is working on these same domains.
 - Disability has appeared in measures we have looked at previously, and so it will be part of the measures we bring forward to the Gravity Project. We will bring in disability (and other identities we are seeing in the measures), by considering how multiple social identities intersect within our three focus areas.