

University of Calgary Anti-Racist Engagement: How Students Recognize Racism and Engage in Anti-Racist Practices

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Introduction

Racism is the “marginalization and/or oppression of people of color based on a societally constructed racial hierarchy” that privileges a group of people over another (1). Racism is ingrained at the societal level which includes places of higher education. The current study aims to evaluate and understand how UCalgary students respond to racism in hopes of sparking conversations on support, ally ship, and respect to make campus a safe space for all.

Methods

The survey was conducted using an Anti-Racism Action Scale (ARAS), an 18-item measure, containing three subscales with interpersonal action and communal action being of focus.

Interpersonal action describes youth response to racism in social settings; communal action is the response to racism seen at school and in community as a collective effort (2). Participants (n=265) were recruited primarily through social media and descriptive analysis for students’ knowledge, practices, and related variables was conducted.

Results

Gender * Defended a friend who is the target of a racial slur or joke

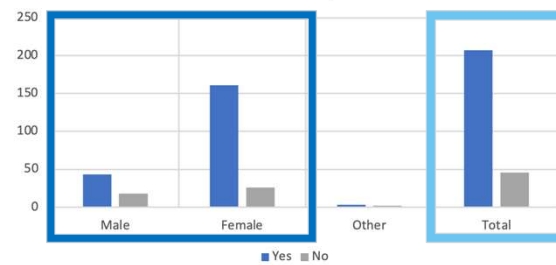
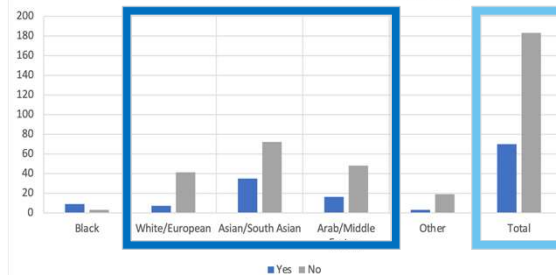


Figure 1: Cross tabulation between gender and defended a friend who is the target of a racial slur or joke. The dark blue box emphasizes that women defended a friend who was the target of a racial slur more than men. The trend of women taking more action than men is seen at all levels and is maintained as participation increases.

Ethnicity * Participated in a leadership group or committee working on issues related to race, ethnicity, discrimination, and/or segregation (i.e. youth organizing group)



The light blue boxes highlight the trend seen across the interpersonal action level and communal action level. Here, more individuals took interpersonal than communal action, and this trend is consistent across the study.

Figure 2: Cross tabulation between ethnicity and participated in a leadership group or committee working on issues related to race, ethnicity, discrimination, and/or segregation. The dark blue box highlights that ethnic groups take more action than their majority counterparts.

Conclusion

□ Generally, UCalgary students have a decent awareness and understanding of racism, but anti-racism action levels are lower. That is, we talk more than we act.

□ Ethnic minority groups are more active against racism at the interpersonal and communal level.

□ Females consistently take more anti-racism action than males at the interpersonal and communal action levels.

□ Want to learn more about antiracism and take antiracism action? Check out:

-Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce, SU UofC <https://www.ucalgary.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion>

-Antiracism community projects <https://actiondignity.org>

Literature cited

1. Anti-Defamation League [Internet]. Racism. 2021. Available from: <https://www.adl.org/racism>
2. Aldana A, Bañales J, Richards-Schuster K. Youth Anti-Racist Engagement: Conceptualization, Development, and Validation of an Anti-Racism Action Scale. *Adolescent Res Rev.* 2019;4(4):369-81.