

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Lives Matter Movement



Anna Marston, Eileen Scheir, Shawna Pilout, and Dr. Scott Allison
University of Richmond, Department of Psychology



BACKGROUND

The United States is battling two converging pandemics—COVID-19 and systemic racism.

In 2013, #BlackLivesMatter was formed by three activists in response to the killing of Trayvon Martin.

When people have more free time, activism increases. We studied whether this political theory is true with the #BlackLivesMatter Movement alongside COVID-19.

Research questions: Did COVID-19 and extra 'free time' impact people's perceptions *Black Lives Matter*, and to what extent?

METHODS

203 participants recruited in a Qualtrics survey, in a 2x2 factorial design.

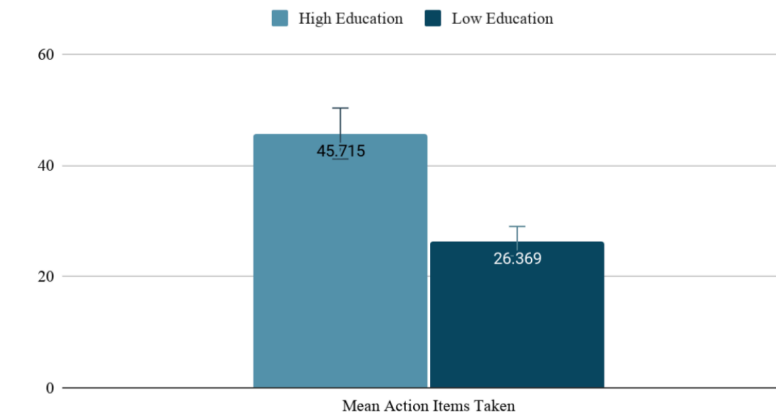
DISCUSSION

Our results suggest the importance of antiracism education in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. This study also shows the positive impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the BLM Movement.

The more time and education people have, the more they are willing to combat worldwide issues such as systemic racism.

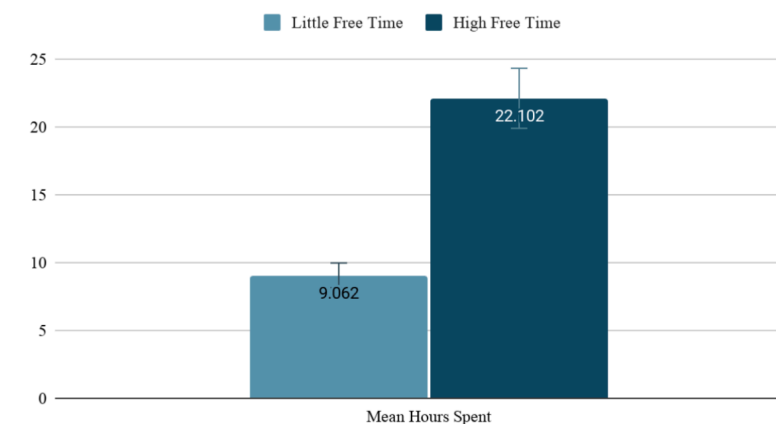
More prior knowledge on race and racism predicted more support for **Black Lives Matter**. More free time people had during COVID-19 also predicted more action items taken to support **Black Lives Matter**.

Mean Action Items Taken by Antiracism Education Level



Significant effect of prior knowledge on antiracism action items: ($F(3, 198) = 6.996, p < 0.001$)

Mean Hours Spent on Antiracism Work by Level of Free Time



Marginally significant effect of free time on hours spent on antiracism: ($F(3, 179) = 2.660, p = 0.050$)

To see full paper, scan QR code

