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An Investigation of the Influence of Hope on the Relationship Between Racial Discrimination and Depressive Symptoms Among African American College Students

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**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INFLUENCE OF HOPE ON THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND DEPRESSIVE
SYMPTOMS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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The relationship between perceived racial discrimination, hope, and depressive symptoms among African American college students was investigated. The first supported hypothesis was that racial discrimination, hope, and hopes two components, agency and pathways, would each significantly affect depressive symptoms. It was also predicted that hope, pathways, and agency would each have a significant interaction effect with racial discrimination on depressive symptoms and that these interactions would explain more variance than racial discrimination, hope, agency, and pathways alone. While hope and pathways each interacted with racial discrimination to predict depressive symptoms, agency did not. Also, the interaction effect of pathways and racial discrimination on depressive symptoms explained more variance than any of the other models. These results suggest that hope and pathways moderate the relationship between racial discrimination and depressive symptoms.