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The Effects of Background Factors on Children's Educational Attainment across Varying Racial Groups

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**THE EFFECTS OF BACKGROUND FACTORS ON CHILDREN'S
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ACROSS VARYING RACIAL GROUPS**

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This paper uses data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) to examine how background and familial factors affect children's educational attainment. Special attention is paid to the existence of educational gaps among children of varying racial groups and the impact of the background variables on each specific race. Multiple regression models are used to show how income, family size, female-headed households, and mothers' educational attainment affect children's educational attainment for each of the three racial groups. The results suggest that the background variables play a larger role in the educational attainment of white respondents than they do in the educational attainment of black or Hispanic respondents. Interestingly, this result, and other results reported in the study, does not support the hypothesis that these background variables have a greater impact on minorities' educational attainment than those of their white counterparts.