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# Perceived discrimination among minority adolescents in Ireland: A case-control analysis

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# Background and aim

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- Perceived discrimination in youth is associated with **poor psychosocial adjustment** and **academic performance** (Hood et al., 2017)
- **Grounds** include: sexual orientation, disability or chronic conditions, immigrant status, belonging to ethnic minorities such as Roma
- In Ireland, discrimination among youth under 18 years range from 47% (based on **age**) to 3% (based on belonging to the **Traveller community**) (DCEDIY, 2022)
- **Aim:** a comprehensive study of discrimination among youth in Ireland, accounting for **socio-demographic context** (gender, age, socio-economic status)

# Sample

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- A **nationally representative** sample of 6,242 adolescents aged 12–19 (mean age:  $15.52 \pm 1.22$  years)
- Participating in the Irish **Health Behaviour in School-aged Children** (HBSC), a WHO collaborative cross-cultural study conducted in 2018
- Percentage **girls** 54.1%
- Percentage **social classes**: 55.2% (high), 34.4% (middle), 10.4% (low)
- Including **minority** and **matched non-minority** youth

# Measures

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- **Socio-demographic context:** gender (boy/girl), age, social class
- **Minority status:** sexual minority (same- or both-gender attraction), living with a disability or chronic condition, first generation immigrant, Traveller
- **Ever been discriminated** based on: place of birth, gender, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion, being a member of the Traveller community, other reason

# Analytic Approach

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- **Case-control matching** based on gender, age group and social class group to eliminate potential confounding effect of socio-demographic differences
- **Chi-square tests** to check whether minority status is associated with ever being discriminated based on different grounds
- **Holm-Bonferroni correction** to prevent accumulation of Type I Error
- **Effect sizes:**  $\phi \leq .09$  negligible,  $.10 \leq \phi \leq .29$  small,  $.30 \leq \phi \leq .49$  medium,  $\phi \geq .50$  large

# Levels of matching

	Sexual minority		Disability or chronic cond.		First gen. immigrant		Traveller	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Matching level</b>								
Classroom	422	76.3	1045	76.1	559	61.2	95	72.0
School	65	11.8	167	12.2	152	16.6	17	12.9
County	41	7.4	111	8.1	147	16.1	14	10.6
Health Board	17	3.1	32	2.3	32	3.5	1	0.8
Unmatched	8	1.4	18	1.3	23	2.5	5	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>		<b>1373</b>		<b>913</b>		<b>132</b>	

# Discrimination perceived by sexual minority youth

	Ever felt discriminated against (%), based on...								
	Place of birth	Gender	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual orientation	Religion	Traveller	Other reason
Minority	32.4	<b>57.9</b>	62.7	13.5	19.0	<b>56.0</b>	<b>20.2</b>	3.8	<b>64.8</b>
Non-minority	23.6	<b>46.0</b>	48.5	8.8	14.8	<b>7.2</b>	<b>12.3</b>	3.0	<b>38.9</b>
<i>p</i>	.002	<b>&lt; .001</b>	< .001	ns.	ns.	<b>&lt; .001</b>	<b>.001</b>	ns.	<b>.007</b>
phi	-.098	<b>-.119</b>	-.143	-.075	-.056	<b>-.524</b>	<b>-.107</b>	-.022	<b>-.259</b>

**Highlighted cells** indicate significant association with small, medium or large effect size

# Discrimination perceived by youth with D/CC

	Ever felt discriminated against (%), based on...								
	Place of birth	Gender	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual orientation	Religion	Traveller	Other reason
Minority	28.6	42.5	49.9	<b>18.3</b>	15.4	14.0	15.1	4.1	<b>58.3</b>
Non-minority	25.0	36.7	45.6	<b>6.8</b>	13.4	10.3	11.6	3.3	<b>30.6</b>
<i>p</i>	<i>ns.</i>	.002	<i>ns.</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<i>ns.</i>	.004	.008	<i>ns.</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
phi	-.040	-.059	-.043	<b>-.173</b>	-.029	-.056	-.052	-.023	<b>-.280</b>

**Highlighted cells** indicate significant association with small, medium or large effect size



# Discrimination perceived by immigrant youth

	Ever felt discriminated against (%), based on...								
	Place of birth	Gender	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual orientation	Religion	Traveller	Other reason
Minority	<b>52.2</b>	36.6	45.5	10.9	<b>33.3</b>	13.3	<b>21.1</b>	5.5	58.1
Non-minority	<b>16.2</b>	38.9	46.0	8.0	<b>6.9</b>	9.0	<b>9.7</b>	3.6	37.8
<i>p</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<i>ns.</i>	<i>ns.</i>	<i>ns.</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	.005	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<i>ns.</i>	<i>ns.</i>
phi	<b>-.379</b>	.025	.005	-.050	<b>-.330</b>	-.069	<b>-.158</b>	-.046	-.203

**Highlighted cells** indicate significant association with small, medium or large effect size

# Discrimination perceived by Traveller youth

	Ever felt discriminated against (%), based on...								
	Place of birth	Gender	Age	Disability	Race	Sexual orientation	Religion	Traveller	Other reason
Minority	<b>42.6</b>	42.7	48.7	<b>23.0</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>27.0</b>	19.0	<b>51.3</b>	70.6
Non-minority	<b>25.2</b>	34.2	38.3	<b>6.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>	11.2	<b>5.3</b>	47.1
<i>p</i>	<b>.005</b>	<i>ns.</i>	<i>ns.</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<i>ns.</i>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<i>ns.</i>
phi	<b>-.184</b>	-.088	-.105	<b>-.238</b>	<b>-.272</b>	<b>-.239</b>	-.108	<b>-.511</b>	-.239

**Highlighted cells** indicate significant association with small, medium or large effect size

# Discussion

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- Minority adolescents are more likely than their non-minority peers to **be discriminated on multiple grounds**
- **Negative halo** effect
- **Complex and multi-level, multi-site interventions** are needed, tackling educational and other settings
- Explicit anti-discrimination policies, revising school curricula, training of staff etc.

# Strengths and limitations

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- **Nationally representative** database and **established** HBSC **methodology**
- Not accounting for **multiple minority statuses**
- No questions on the **context of discrimination**: who, why, how?
- Minority youth are more likely **to be absent** from school – underrepresentation
- **Other minority** groups (e.g. young carers, homeless, living in institutional care) are not covered
- **Binary classification of gender** – neglecting lived experiences of trans and other gender minority youth

# Thank you

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