

Spatial Mismatch, Race and Ethnicity, and Unemployment: Implications for Interventions With Women on Probation and Parole

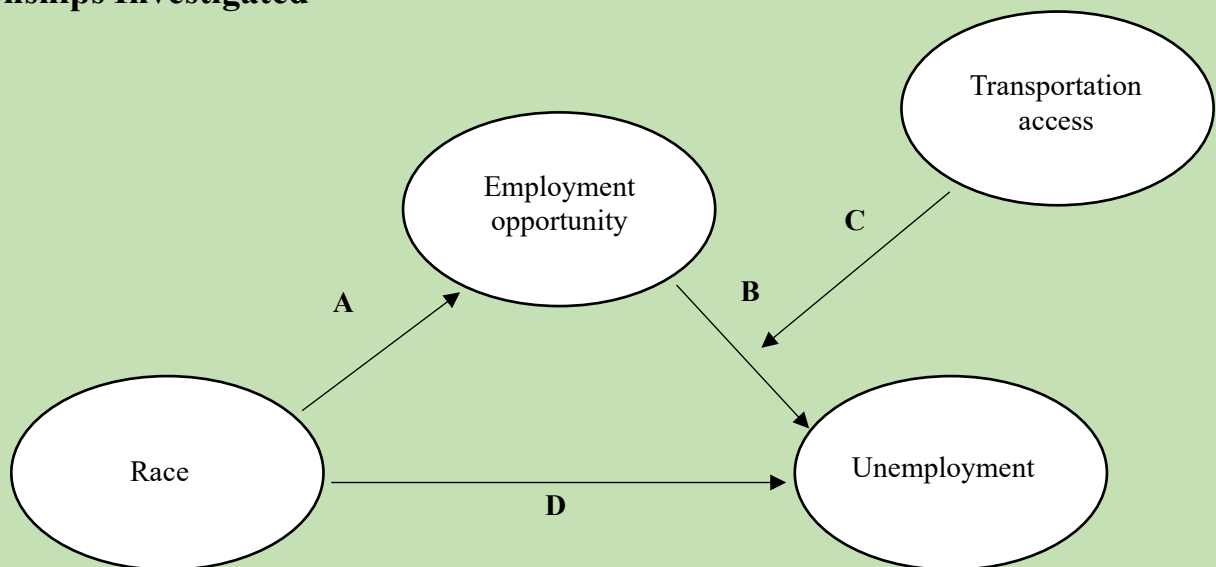
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Importance of Race, Spatial Mismatch, and Employment for Women Offenders

- Job searches are notoriously difficult for women with criminal histories
- Some women live in neighborhoods with few employment opportunities, which can affect their abilities to find and maintain a job
- We examined the extent to which race dictates experiences of **spatial mismatch** among a sample of women on probation and parole, and whether experiences of spatial mismatch led to unemployment
 - **Spatial mismatch**: the geographic disconnection between the locations of available job opportunities and the places where individuals reside
- We also examined whether access to transportation affected the relationship between spatial mismatch and employment outcomes

Relationships Investigated



Findings:

- A. Women who were racial or ethnic minorities lived in areas with fewer employment opportunities
- B. Women who lived in areas with fewer employment opportunities were more likely to be unemployed
- C. Women with higher levels of transportation access were less affected by spatial mismatch in their employment outcomes
- D. Women who were racial or ethnic minorities were less likely to find employment, and this was due to spatial mismatch

Practical applications:

- Some women have more difficulty finding employment, and this can be related to the segregation of employment opportunities away from where women of color live (i.e., **spatial mismatch**)
- Allowing women on probation and parole to prioritize living close to employment opportunities, or improving their access to transportation during their job searches, can improve their likelihood of finding work