Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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This survey was done only in schools because of funding constraints. Differences exist between children and adolescents and adults in both diagnosis and treatment for mental disorders. Hence, it would be very difficult for a large-scale community survey to include children, adolescents, and adults in all age groups, from a survey design and from a financial point of view. Psychiatrists in China are striving for more resources to conduct nationwide surveys in children and adolescents. There are few extensive national surveys on mental disorders in individuals younger than 18 years from anywhere in the world.

Kang and Yang also noted that few surveys on mental disorders in China include people from ethnic minorities, even though there are 56 ethnic minorities in China with quite different cultural diversity, accounting for 8.89% of the total population. Doing questionnaire surveys in areas with multiple ethnic groups is a challenge for all in the psychiatric field. To date, few surveys in ethnic groups have shown lower prevalence among other ethnic groups than in Han Chinese individuals. Our psychiatric epidemiologists have much to explore and study.

I declare no competing interests

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were men and one woman, of Black and Asian heritage, to solicit their views. Although there were pre-prepared prompts (appendix p 2), the discussion was largely kept free flowing to capture the young people’s experience authentically, allowing them to build on each other’s points. The following is a summary of a few of the collective sentiments of the participants.

The young people voiced that the lack of urgency around racism in the UK is owing to the subtle form it takes compared with other countries such as the USA. They believed their peers were affected by stereotypes, institutional racism, and a lack of meaningful representation beyond lip service and tokenism. The young people described effects on their self-perception as a result, stirring up feelings of imposter syndrome or the need to work harder than their White counterparts to be accepted. They also reported the burden of having to perform to appear more palatable to, and protect themselves from, people who might negatively perceive them. Without adequate support, these experiences lead to feelings of loneliness and social isolation. Other effects of racism reported by the participants include its influence on decision making about careers and education due to anticipation of how people of their minority ethnic background might be treated. They also mentioned that these are circumstances that their parents prepared them for, highlighting potential longer term and indirect effects of racism.

In recognition of their experiences, the young people expressed a need for co-production of research and culturally appropriate interventions to give effect to meaningful representation. The current inadequacies in this area reflect the fact that young people with relevant lived experiences are under-represented among those doing the research due to difficulty securing funding in general. This problem is reinforced in the Broken Pipeline report, which reported that only 1.2% of the 19,868 PhD-funded studentships awarded by the UKRI research councils, combined over a 3-year academic period (2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19) in the UK, went to Black students or those from a Mixed ethnic background that included Black ethnicity. Although not all researchers from a minority ethnic background will carry out research on racism and mental health, lack of funding in general will further affect representation in research in this area.

These sentiments were affirmed by the professionals we engaged with who work with young people, including researchers, teachers, and youth workers whose insight we sought to help fill in the gaps in research priorities. We presented the findings of the young people’s workshop, with which they expressed agreement, adding that some of the challenges of working within research around racism include the lack of prioritisation of this research by funders.

In summary, young people believe that an increase in exposure to racism can have detrimental effects on their overall mental health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is of great importance that these issues are prioritised in research, and that the research itself be done in consultation between researchers and youth from minority ethnic communities who are directly affected.

We declare no competing interests.

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