Introduction

- School climate is crucial to students' learning throughout their K-12 academic experience.
- Previous studies have mainly focused on Caucasian students' and teachers' perspective instead of addressing the perspective of other ethnicities, specifically their parents (Wang, & Holcombe, 2010; Koh, Braddock & Leaf, 2008).
- Since previous research has lacked focus on parent's perspective of school climate from different ethnicities, this study will further improve the understanding of parent's perspective of school climate and how they associate their student with school climate as well as how different ethnicities view school climate.

To address this need, the current study aims to fill the gap by:
- Taking into consideration the perspective of parents from different ethnicities and seeing how it compares to Asian American parent's perspective.

Methods

Sample
- 20,579 students and 9,662 parents of students in grades 3-12 in 108 public schools
- Data obtained from the Delaware Positive Behavior Supports Project

Outcome Variable: School Climate
- Parents completed the Delaware School Climate Scale-Home (Bear et al., 2016)
- Students completed the Delaware School Climate Scale-Student (Bear et al., 2016)

Subscales:
- Teacher-Student Relationship (5 Items): "Teacher treats students of all races with respect.
- Student-Student Relationship (5 Items): "Students are friendly with each other.
- Clarity of Instruction (4 Items): "Rules are made clear to students.
- Fairness of Instruction (4 Items): "The school rules are fair.
- School Safety (3 Items): "Students are safe in the hallways.

Predicting Variables:
- Student Level: Race
- Parent Level: Race

Analytic Procedure
- Using Asian Americans as the control group, T-tests were conducted to measure the differences in rates of five types of bullying victimization between different racial/ethnic groups.
- Analysis of responses were conducted separately for students and parents in order to determine if there was a difference between the two groups.

Results

Student Perception of School Climate

- Overall, Asian parents indicated a higher perception of school climate when compared with Black, White and Hispanic parents.
- Asian students reported significantly higher perceptions of all the six perspectives of school climate than Black and Hispanic American students.
- Asian students reported significantly higher perceptions of Student-Student Relationship, Fairness of Instructions than White students; however, White students reported significantly higher perceptions of Clarity of Instructions than Asian students. In Teacher-Student Relationship and Safety, both groups endorsed the same level.

Parents Perception of School Climate

- Overall, Asian parents indicated a higher perception of school climate when compared with Black, White and Hispanic parents.
- Asian parents reported significantly higher perception of school climate in comparison to Hispanic and Black students.
- Asian parents reported significantly higher perceptions of Student-Student Relationship, Student-Teacher Relationship, Safety and Home School Communications than White students; however, White parents reported a higher or almost equal level of Clarity of instruction and Fairness in comparison to Asian parents.

Discussion and Practical Implications

- Student Perception of School Climate
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References

- University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology