

### BACKGROUND

- Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death compared to White women<sup>1</sup>.
- Black women are also more likely to experience maternal health complications such as preeclampsia compared to their white counterparts<sup>1</sup>.

#### Intersectionality

- Intersectionality* is a term that highlights the significance of the overlapping identities (e.g. race, gender, sexual identity, class) an individual may hold in society<sup>2</sup>.
- Black Women are a marginalized group with an intersectional identity that experience unique oppressions and stereotypes that other groups may not experience<sup>3</sup>.

#### Endorsement of Black Women Stereotypes

- These specific stereotypes has influenced the way people perceive Black women, especially those that are pregnant<sup>4</sup>.
  - The *Sapphire*: she is a Black woman is aggressive, strong, and emasculating.
  - The *Jezebel*: a Black women who is immoral, sexual, and promiscuous.
  - The *Welfare Queen*: a Black women that is poor, uneducated, and a single mother of many children<sup>5</sup>.
- However, it has been no connection in the literature between these stereotypes and the maternal healthcare outcomes of Black women.

#### Empathy

- There has been an established link between race and empathy within the literature on pain-treatment<sup>6</sup>.
- Empathy has been examined across multiple studies showing that there is a pro-white bias in pain-treatment and empathy.

### THE PRESENT STUDY

- The present study will examine the relationship between race (Black or White) and perceived symptom severity of pregnant women. This study will also investigate potential mediators within this association
- RQ1:** Is there an association between race and perceived symptom severity?
- RQ2:** Is the association between race and perceived symptom severity mediated by the endorsement of specific stereotypes about Black women?
- RQ3:** Is the association between race and perceived symptom severity mediated by the endorsement of specific stereotypes about Black

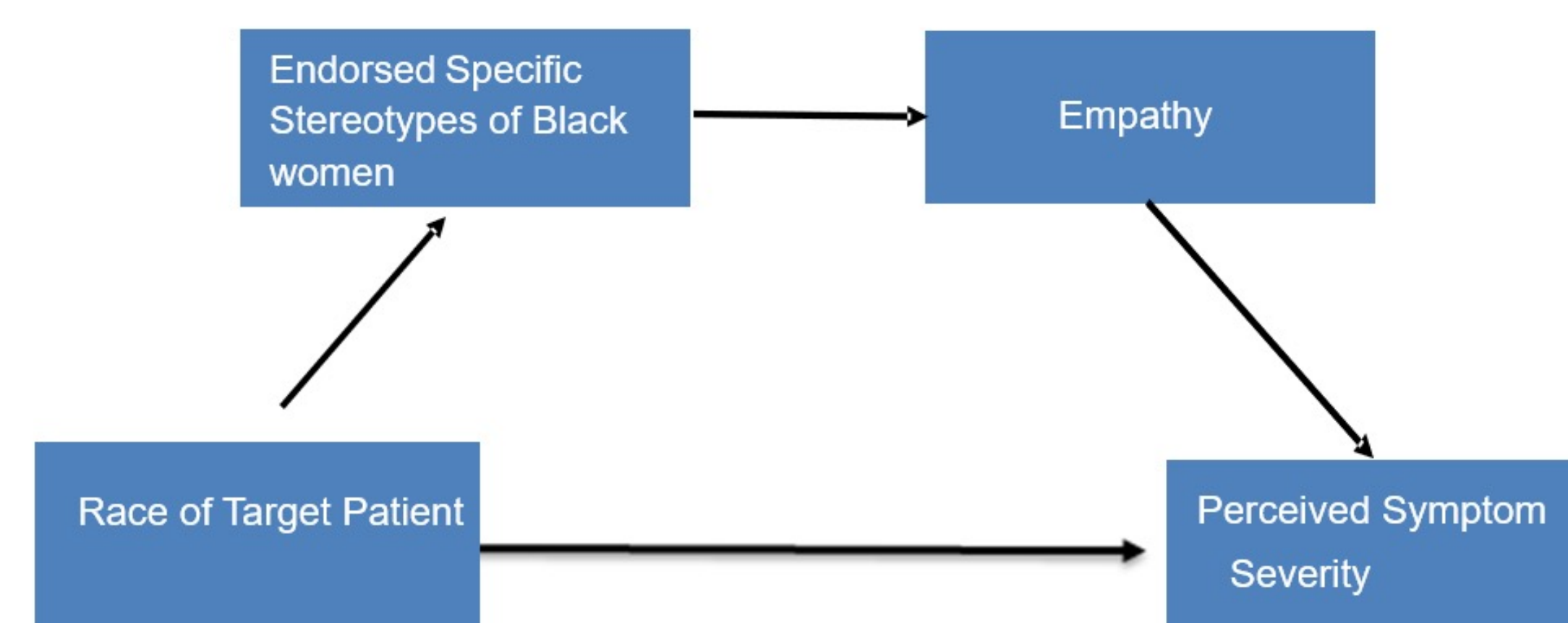


Figure 1: Conceptual model depicting the direct and indirect effect race has on perceived symptom severity. This model also includes our two mediators: Endorsement of specific stereotypes and empathy.

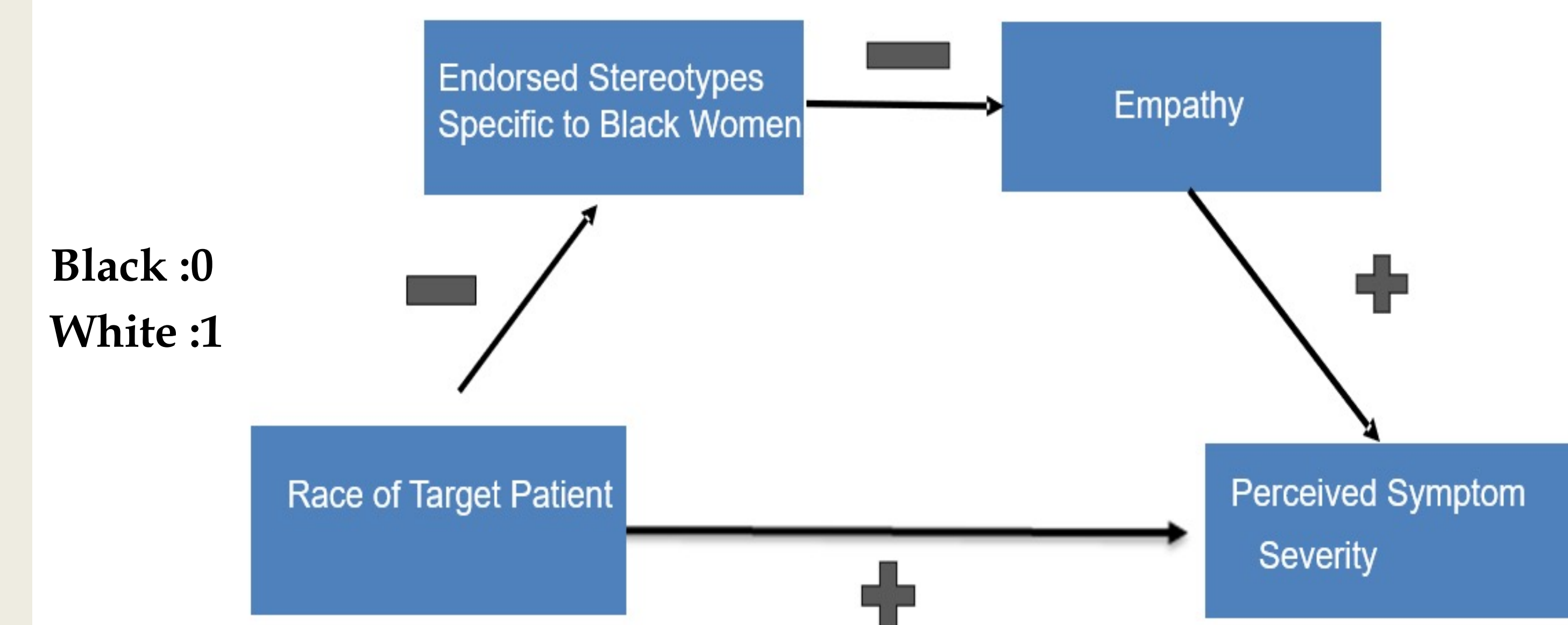
### METHODS

- 230 White participants will be recruited from Amazon Mechanical Turk.

#### MEASURES

- Perceptions of Target Patient:** Endorsement of Archetypes Specific to Black Women Scale (modified; Rosenthal and Lobel, 2016)
  - 13-item scale that will ask participants assess how likely are the statements true for their patient (i.e., She has children)
- Empathic Concern Scale** (Baston et al., 1988; Drwecki et al., 2010;  $\alpha = 0.90$ )
  - 5-item scale that will ask participants to indicate the extent to which they felt warm, compassionate, etc. toward the target patient
- Symptom Assessment & Treatment Recommendations**
  - Participants will be asked to assess the target patient's symptom severity. Items in this assessment require open-ended and rated responses (i.e. What form of treatment would you recommend for her symptoms?)

### ANTICIPATED FINDINGS



### DISCUSSION

- The two mediators in this study could become solutions to this crisis involving the healthcare disparities concerning Black pregnant women.
- This study is important because it can shed light on the unique social position Black women have in society and can help alter the way researchers further examine racial biases among medical providers.
- Future directions of this study would be to conduct this study using actual medical providers and practitioners.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Staff and Dr. Lori Hoggard for the constant support in executing my research proposal. I would also like to thank lab member Vanessa L. Hatton for dedicating her time to guiding me on this project throughout the entire institute.

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