

From Center to Margin: Examining Socialization and Stereotypes to Unravel the Student-Athlete Experience of African American Women

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Abstract

The current study examined the effect of socialization and stereotypes on college athletes. Grounded in previous interview data gathered from African American female college athletes, a survey was designed, pilot tested, and administered to athletes (N=584) at seven Division I institutions, selected based on broad-based success from Top 35 finishes in the NACDA/Sears' Director's Cup standings from 2000-2003. The institutions were geographically diverse and athletes of both genders were purposively sampled in ten different sports. Analysis focused on White men, White women, African American men, and African American women. No factors yielded interaction effects ($p < .003$) between race/ethnicity and gender. However, seven factors revealed significant differences. Athletic administrators serve to gain a better understanding of the experiences of the athletes who compose their organizations through the results of the current study.

N.B. African American/Black and European American/White are used interchangeably throughout this article.