The stress associated with experiencing racism and discrimination during adolescence may influence brain development.

**Motivation**
- Experiences of racism get under the skin, relating to a variety of health outcomes including mental health in adolescence.
- More specifically, experiencing racial/ethnic discrimination are related to changes in how the body responds to stress.
- This dysregulation could impact the development of emotion and reward processing centers of the brain, during a critical developmental period.

**Project Description**
- **Aim 1**: Examine impact of race/ethnicity-based stressors on brain regions involved with emotion and reward processing.
- **Aim 2**: Test if these brain differences relate to mental health outcomes in adolescence.

**Context**
- Information about how racism impact the brain may shed light on underlying mechanisms (i.e., reward processing) that play a role in the mental health of youth of color.

**Potential Impact**
- Understanding critical pathways between youth of color's context and brain development may be crucial to promote mental health in communities of color.
- These pathways that are typically overlooked when youth are aggregated.
- Understanding these mechanisms may also give insight into brain development that may be applied to promoting mental health and preventing health disparities.