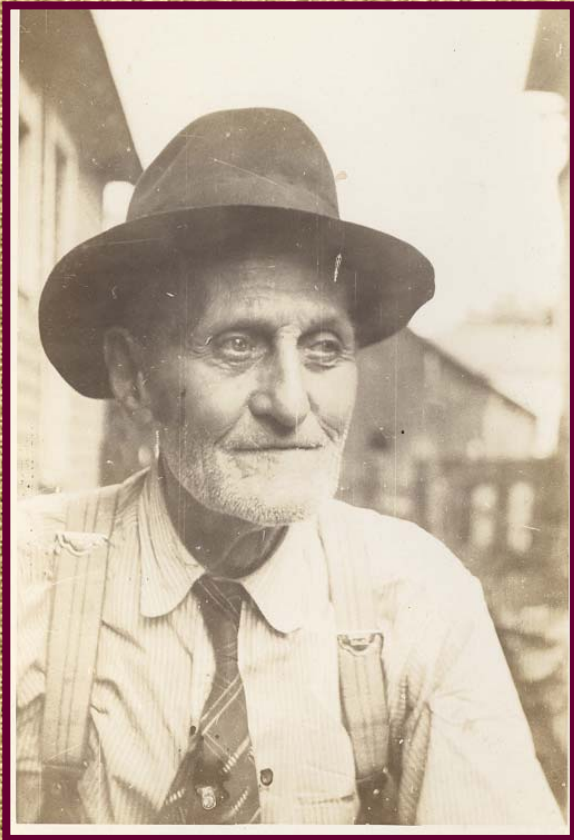


Finding Common Ground



A Culture Awareness Guide for Healthcare With Older Adults

**National Association of State
Mental Health Program
Directors**

Older Persons Division

August 27, 2007

Louisville, KY





Mountain State Geriatric Education Center



West Virginia University

Our agenda today . . .

- **Discussion of culture awareness in health care**
- **Review the culture awareness guide**
- **Video on culture awareness in healthcare with rural older adults**

Finding Common Ground

A Culture Awareness Guide for Healthcare With Older Adults

- a guide for educators, students and providers
- intended to increase awareness of specific cultural characteristics of those with whom they work
- suggests some areas for learning about these cultural characteristics

**NASMHPD Position
Statement on Culturally
Competent and Linguistically
Appropriate Mental Health
Services**

“New and changing cultural perspectives, emerging cultural groups, and the growing realization that cultural identity contributes in essential ways to mental well-being require new attention to the need for culturally appropriate mental health services.”

continued . . .

“It is . . . in the best interest of both mental health consumers and the public mental health system which serves them, that culturally competent services be consistently available, accessible and effective.”

Office of Minority Health Standards

Standard 1

Health care organizations should ensure that patients/consumers receive from all staff member's effective, understandable, and respectful care that is provided in a manner compatible with their cultural health beliefs and practices and preferred language.



Does culture matter?

Culture influences . . .

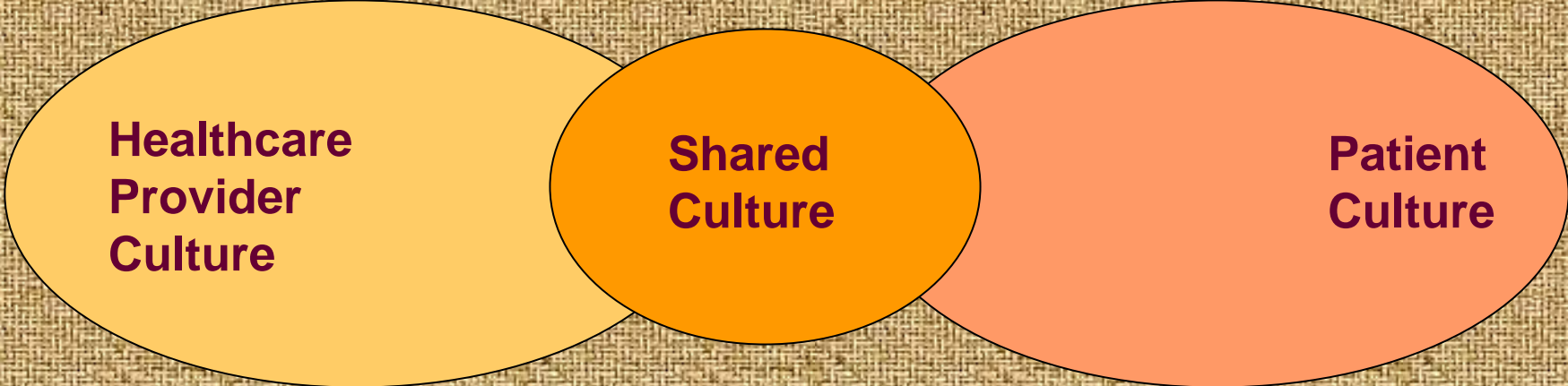
- beliefs and expectations about the nature of health and illness**
- opinions about ways to improve health and overcome illness**
- perceptions about the roles that patients and providers can play in this process**

**Is there an
“old” culture?**



**Is the “greatest generation”
culturally different?**

**“Things just aren’t the way
they used to be . . .”**



**Healthcare
Provider
Culture**

**Shared
Culture**

**Patient
Culture**

Some possible benefits of cultural compatibility . . .

- increase adherence with treatment recommendations**
- increase active participation by patients in assessment and treatment planning**
- decrease errors by following-through with care plans**

- **increase appropriate use of healthcare appointments, communication and resources**
- **decrease healthcare disparities among various groups in the community**
- **increase accurate assessment of health problems**

What providers can do . . .

- Openness to learn about others' beliefs**
- Respect differing views**
- Use language that encourages communication with others from different backgrounds**
- Regard the healthcare relationship as a partnership with mutually agreed-upon responsibilities**

**Does one
size fit all?**



Census: Minority Population Tops 100M

WASHINGTON, May 17, 2007



Residents walk past a vendor along 26th Street in the predominantly Mexican Little Village in Chicago, Illinois. Hispanic was the fastest-growing minority group, enlarging 3.4 percent between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006 for a total of 44.3 million, according to Census data. **(GETTY)**

(CBS/AP) The United States is becoming more diverse, with ethnic and racial minorities topping 100 million for the first time in 2006, according to data from the Census Bureau.

The data suggest about one in three Americans was a minority last year.

The nation was 66.4 percent white, non-Hispanic; 15 percent Hispanic; 13.4 percent black; 5 percent Asian, and 1.5 percent American Indian or native Alaskan. Three-tenths of a percent identified themselves as Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

“ . . . the minority population in the U.S. is larger than the total population of all but 11 countries.”

Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon

Based on the Census data, an analysis by the Associated Press showed that Illinois is the most average state in the country.

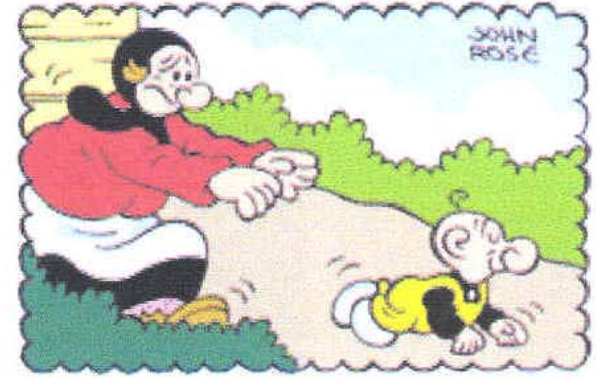
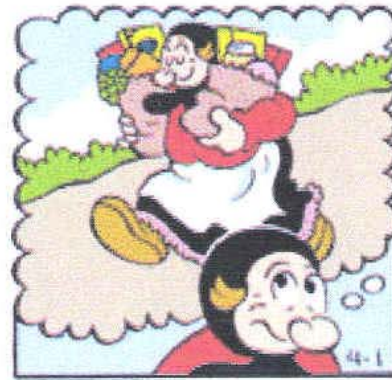
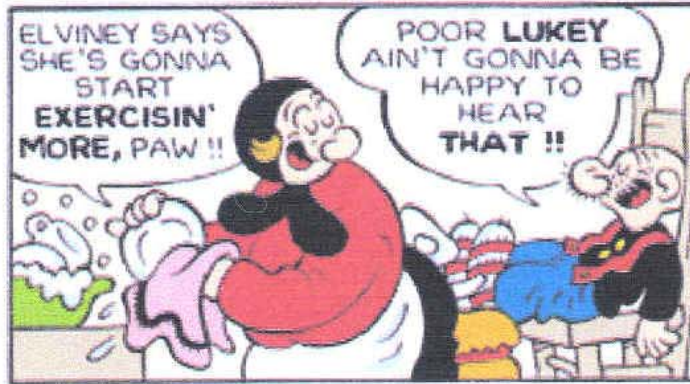
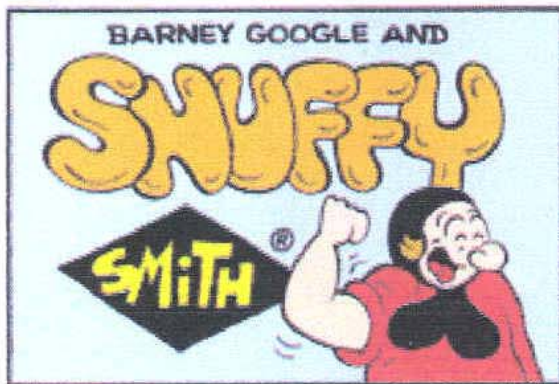
The study examined 21 demographic factors including race, age, income, education, industrial mix, immigration and the share of people living in urban and rural areas.

Each state was then ranked on how closely it matched national levels. Illinois was followed by Oregon, Michigan, Washington and Delaware.

West Virginia was the least typical state: poorer, whiter, more rural followed by Mississippi, New Hampshire, Vermont and Kentucky.

Relevance for West Virginia . .

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Cultural Differences and Diversity

Race and Ethnicity

Economic standing

Vocation

Religion

Education

Age

Rural/Urban



**As mental health professionals,
how can we acquire knowledge and
awareness about cultures other
than our own in ways that avoid
stereotyping and generalizations?**

The Dilemma . . .



While it is useful to become aware of characteristics of diverse cultures, is it possible to know about all and the many unique variations within each culture.



Does the effort to become aware of characteristics of diverse cultural categories unwittingly contribute to stereotyping and inaccuracies regarding specific individuals who are affected by several cultural influences?

Population Specific Approach

African-American

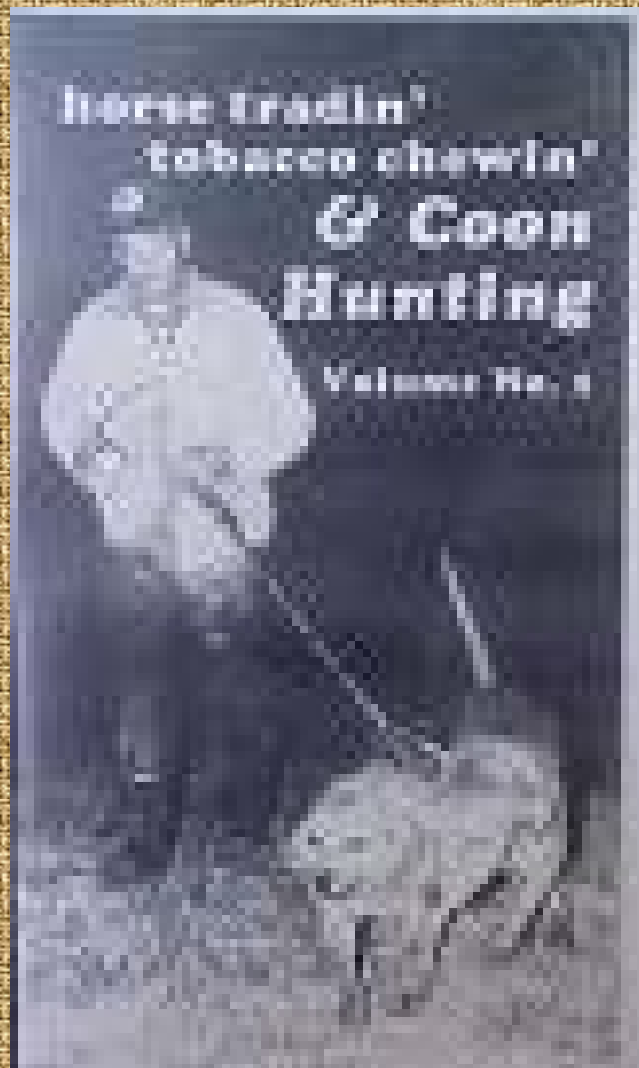
Native American/Alaskan Native

Native Hawaiian

Hispanic/Latino

Asian/Pacific Islander

**Appalachians/West
Virginians???**



Culture Awareness Approach

Areas for awareness . . .

- Communication about health and healthcare**
- Trust and relationships with healthcare providers**
- Beliefs and practices regarding health and healthcare**
- Relationships of culture to health and use of healthcare**

Some strategies for using the Cultural Awareness Guide . . .

- Observations in everyday interactions and relationships in the community from which cultural patterns can be identified**
- Statistical data (e.g. census reports, etc.)**
- Relationships with individual patients and their families in healthcare encounters**

Thank you!

Bob Jones

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