

# IMPACT OF ETHNICITY

## What is Culturally Competent Health Care for African-American Patients?

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# Evidence of Need

- “Racial and ethnic minorities tend to receive a lower quality of health care than non-minorities, even when ... factors such as patient’s insurance status and income are taken into account.” *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care (IOM, 2002)*
- “Current information about the biologic and genetic characteristics of African Americans... does not explain health disparities evidenced by these groups compared with white, non-Hispanic populations...” (*Healthy People 2010*)

# Some Existing Approaches

- Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards
- Organizational Cultural Competence Assessment Profile
- Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS (SISTA)
- BE SAFE – A Culturally Competent Model for African Americans

# Elucidate Primary Outcomes

- Increased awareness among clinical staff
- Estimation of clinic's sensitivity to Afri-centric approaches
- Venue for interactive sessions with women of color that include culturally relevant sessions that focus on gender and ethnic pride
- Increased provider familiarity with African American tenants of African American culture

# Remaining Questions

- May we assume that an African American patient is in touch with Afri-centric perspectives and therefore will respond favorably to such approaches?
- Are there differences between public health interventions and clinical practice?
- Does varying class/income levels among African-Americans mitigate their response to Afri-centric models.

# Larger Group Population vs. Individual Patient

- Clinical practice focuses on the individual
- Approximately 15 minutes for a typical clinic visit (minimizes interaction time)
- In addition to the lab test results, all you know for sure is based on skin color.

# Wholeness: An Afri-Centric Concept

- Integrate concern and interest in the whole person – not just the body, not just the disease
- Use an ecological approach: What do I need to know at the individual level, at the family level and at the community level that impacts this patient's health care experience?
- Integrate motivational interviewing techniques to engage the patient in dialogue

# CASSEP – An Ecological Model to Assess the Whole Patient

❖ **COGNITIVE**

❖ **AFFECTIVE**

❖ **SPIRITUAL**

❖ **SOCIAL**

❖ **ECONOMICAL**

❖ **PHYSIOLOGICAL**

# Acknowledgement

- Mesfin S. Mulatu, Ph.D., The MayaTech Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia