### SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAININGS INFUSED WITH DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

ALONG THE SUICIDE CRISIS PATH FRAMEWORK / CONTINUUM



1

### Joyce P. Chu, PhD

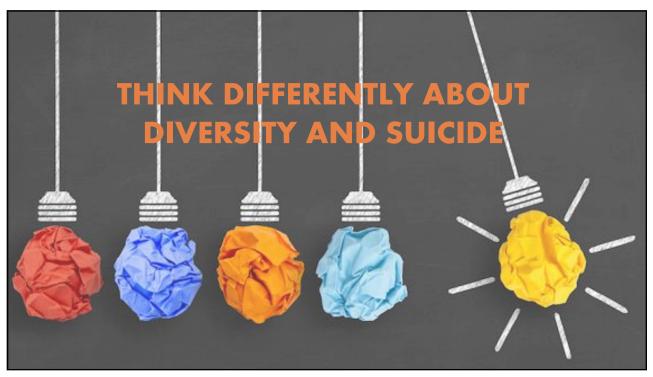
joycepchu@gmail.com Clinical Psychologist, PSY #23059 Professor, Palo Alto University Suicide, diversity and culture, & community mental health

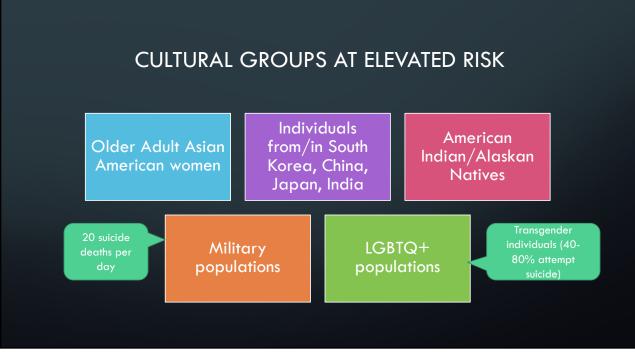
### Christopher M. Weaver, PhD

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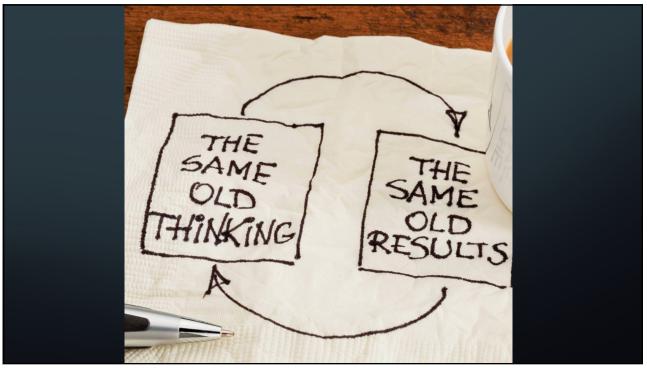
Professor, Palo Alto University Forensics, suicide, assessment, trauma









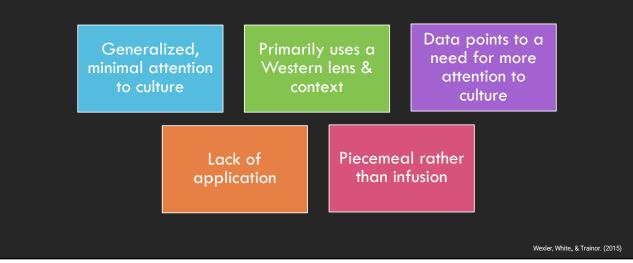


# SUICIDE PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT: A CRITIQUE

- Warning signs and checklists same
- Questions asking about suicide same
- Outreach, interventions same

Little recognition of cultural variation or context

### HOW WELL DO COMMUNITY TRAININGS WORK ACROSS CULTURAL GROUPS?





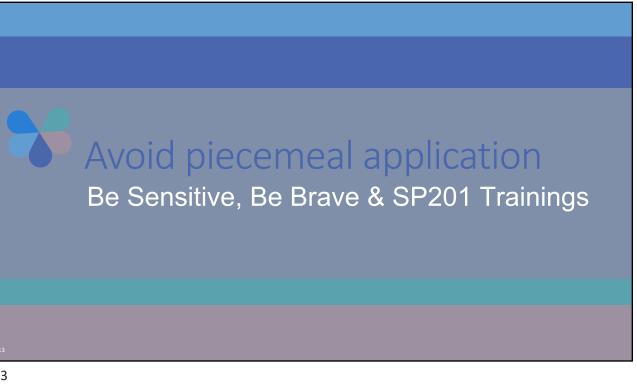




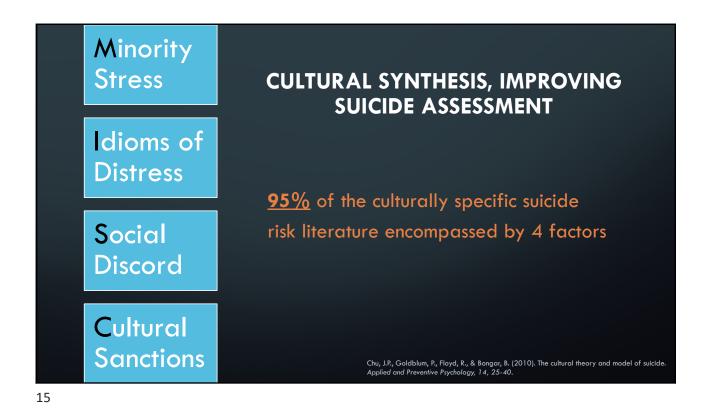


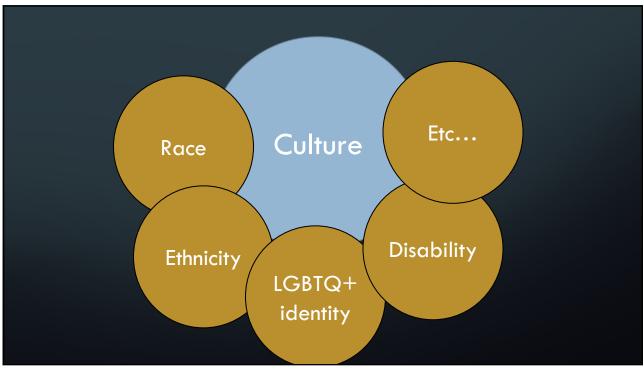


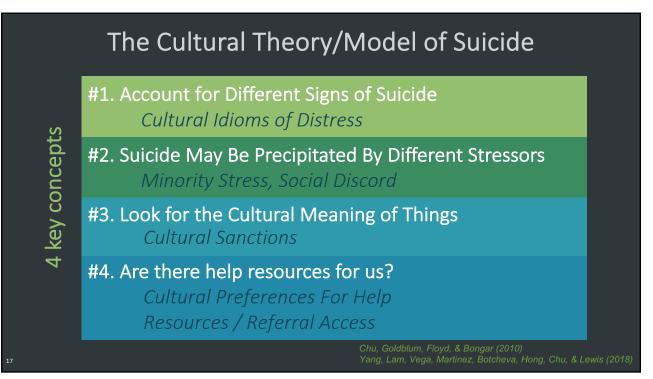




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	Instructions: For each item, please mark an "x" in the box under the label (e.g., Strongly Disagree, Strongly Agree) that best applies to you. You should <b>ignore the small numbers</b> inside of the boxes.						
	Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree	
1. I feel connected to, like I am a part of, a community.	6	□ 5		3	2		
<ol><li>There is a lot of conflict between myself and members of my family.</li></ol>			3	4	5	6	
3. There is something in my life I feel ashamed about.					5	6	
4. I am accepted and valued by others.	6	5	4	~ 🗆	2		
5. I have, without anyone's knowledge, thought of suicide in the past.			3	4	5	6	
<ol><li>When I get angry at something or someone, it takes me a long time to get over it.</li></ol>				4	5	6	
7. Sometimes I feel so tired I do not want to get up/wake up.				4	5	6	
<ol> <li>I have access to a method of suicide other than a gun that I have previously thought to use (e.g., weapon, rope, poison, overdose).</li> </ol>				4		6	
9. I consider suicide to be morally wrong.	6						
10. Suicide would bring shame to my family.		, ,			Ļ		
<ol> <li>People treat me unfairly because of my ethnicity, sexual, or gender identity.</li> </ol>				4		6	
12. Adjusting to America has been difficult for me. (Note: If you were born in America, leave this item blank.)			□ 3	4	5	6	
<ol> <li>Because of my sexual or gender orientation, no one understands my pain or distress. (Note: If you do not identify as LGBTQ, leave this item blank.)</li> </ol>					5	6	
<ol> <li>The decision to hide or reveal my sexual or gender orientation to others causes me great distress. (Note: If you do not identify as LGBTQ, leave this item blank.)</li> </ol>				4	5	6	

### Suicide Warning Signs

#### Thoughts

- Thinking life is not worth living, thinking about hurting yourself, or having suicidal thoughts
- Thinking others are better off without you.

### Feelings

- Feeling hopeless, desperate, or trapped.
- Feeling abandoned or betrayed.
- Feeling no sense of purpose.
- Sudden mood changes.
- Feeling ashamed of who you are.
- Feeling unbearable emotional pain.

### Physical Trouble coping with health

- changesUnbearable chronic pain

### Behavioral

- Giving away prized possessions.
  Deing reckloss things that put you
- Doing reckless things that put you in danger.
- Putting affairs in order.
- Increased drug, alcohol use or other ways to numb pain.
- Withdrawing and spending most of your time alone.
- Not caring for personal hygiene or health needs.

### Verbal

- "I just want out."
- "I won't be around much longer."
- "I'm a burden to other people."

#### Situational

- Conflict with or rejection from your family, support system, or community.
- Exposure to trauma, such as abuse or bullying.
- Financial stress.
- Chronic or terminal illness.
- Death or suicide of a loved one.
- Discrimination or being treated unfairly because of who you are.
- Not having others who understand you.Failure to meet expectations.
- Failure to meet expectations.
- Trouble adjusting to a new culture.

### Suicide Warning Signs – Cultural Variations

### Thoughts

- Thinking life is not worth living, thinking about hurting yourself, or having suicidal thoughts
- Thinking others are better off without you.

### Feelings

- Feeling hopeless, desperate, or trapped.
- Feeling abandoned or betrayed.
- Feeling no sense of purpose.
- Sudden mood changes.
- Feeling ashamed of who you are.
- Feeling unbearable emotional pain.

### Physical

- Trouble coping with health changes
- Unbearable chronic pain

#### Behavioral

- Giving away prized possessions.
- Doing reckless things that put you
- <mark>in danger.</mark>
- Putting affairs in order.
- Increased drug, alcohol use or other ways to numb pain.
- Withdrawing and spending most of your time alone.
- Not caring for personal hygiene or health needs.

### Verbal

- "I just want out."
- "I won't be around much longer."
- "I'm a burden to other people."

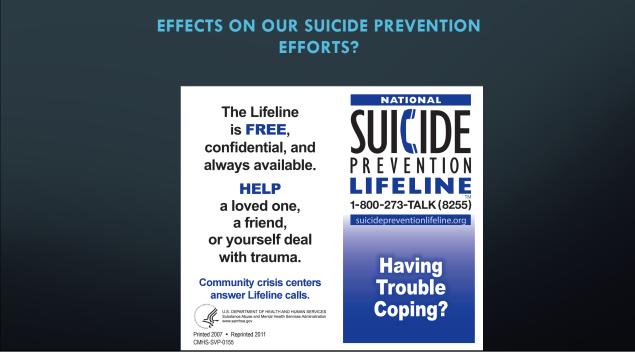
#### Situational

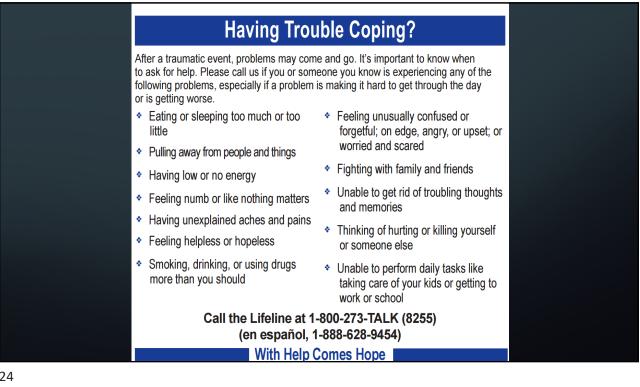
- Conflict with or rejection from your family, support system, or community.
- Exposure to trauma, such as abuse or bullying.
- Financial stress.
- Chronic or terminal illness.
- Death or suicide of a loved one.
- Discrimination or being treated unfairly because of who you are.
- Not having others who understand you.
- Failure to meet expectations.
- Trouble adjusting to a new culture.

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# CULTURAL VARIATIONS IN HOW TO ASK ABOUT SUICIDE

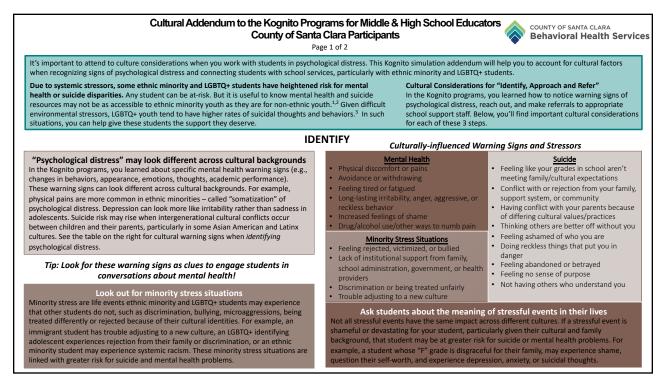
- Have you ever wanted to give your life away?
- Have you ever felt your loved ones would be better off without you?
- Have you ever felt no one would care if you weren't around anymore?
- Have you ever felt you don't deserve to be alive?
- Have you felt so ashamed that you wanted to disappear?
- Have you ever felt your time on this earth is done?
- Have you felt this world has rejected you and it's time to leave?
- Have you ever wished someone else would just end your life?





Havi	n	g Trouble Coping	g	?
After a traumatic event, proble to ask for help. Please call us following problems, especially or is getting worse.	if y	ou or someone you know is e	exp	periencing any of the
<ul> <li>Eating or sleeping too much or too little</li> <li>Pulling away from people and things</li> </ul>	٠	Feeling unusually confused or forgetful; on edge, angry, or upset; or worried and scared		Feeling ashamed about something Feeling treated
<ul> <li>Having low or no energy</li> </ul>	*	Fighting with family and friends		unfairly because of who you are
<ul> <li>Feeling numb or like nothing matters</li> </ul>	*	Unable to get rid of troubling thoughts and memories	+	Doing careless things that put you in danger
* Having unexplained aches and pains				Feeling too tired to get up
<ul> <li>Feeling helpless or hopeless</li> </ul>	•	Thinking of hurting or killing yourself or someone else	+	Feeling isolated from
<ul> <li>Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than you should</li> </ul>	*	Unable to perform daily tasks like taking care of your kids or getting to work or school	+	others that understand you Thinking others are better off without you
		line at 1-800-273-TALK pañol, 1-888-628-9454		8255)
		h Help Comes Hope	•	

	OF CREATING CULTURALLY
2017	Partnership with Santa Clara County Suicide
	Prevention
	<b>Goal:</b> Infuse Culture and Diversity throughout their Suicide Prevention efforts and strategic plan
2017-2018	Evaluated Trainings for Culture/Diversity (e.g., QPR, ASIST, MHFA, YMHFA, Suicide to Hope, Kognito)
2019-2020	Developed, Tested, Piloted new culturally infused trainings



Cultural Addendum to the Kognito Progra County of Santa C							
APPROACH Page (Supporting Students to Open Up)	e 1 of 2 REFER						
<b>Building cultural connections is a strength</b> Culture matters. Cultural connections are strengths in difficult conversations. Pay attention to your multiple identities, (race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability status, etc.), how they interact with each other, and how they affect students'	Tips for referring when a student is reluctant to seek help Ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ students may be reluctant to accept a referral, particularly when they have high mental health stigma, are unfamiliar with or don't trust authority figures.						
comfort in opening up to you. Some ethnic minority students may be looking for indications that you understand their lives. LGBTQ+ students may be looking for signs that you are a trustworthy ally or that you accept them. For others, talking directly about cultural identity may help them trust and open up to you; cultural identities may help you find the best approach to addressing your students' difficulties.	<ul> <li>Ask the student about their reactions to getting referred to school support staff. Provide additional information or discuss any concerns.</li> <li>Ask the student if they have questions about privacy and confidentiality. Discuss concerns about their reluctance to get support (e.g., Will other friends find out? How will their family be involved?)</li> </ul>						
Look out for mental health stigma and cultural mistrust Some ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ students may believe that having mental health problems means someone is weak, "crazy," unlikeable, or has a hopeless future. Their families or cultural communities may be unfamiliar with mental health concepts, hold stigmatizing beliefs about mental illness, or believe in handling problems on their own.	<ul> <li>It may take multiple conversations and efforts for students to fully consider and follow through with a referral. Follow up with them to see how they are doing, and don't be afraid to try referring again.</li> <li>Keep an open mind about types of support that can help your student – there is more than one option (read on for more information about culturally-specific resources and help preferences).</li> </ul>						
Your students may have had discriminatory experiences with various health providers who were not culturally sensitive. These students may be more likely to push you away, hide	Culturally-specific resources Does my student need resources in a specific non-English language?						
their problems, be unaware of their problems, or refuse to talk. Tips for stigma, mistrust or reluctance to open up Look for body and verbal language indicating a student is embarrassed or reluctant to discuss their concerns openly. Use communication styles that make your student feel	Many national resources can help students or their families with specific cultural or language needs (for example, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline offers support in Spanish). Ask your student about their language preference when you provide a referral.						
more comfortable with you. • When students aren't opening up because of stigma and mistrust, normalize this (e.g., "You're not alone - lots of students go through what you're experiencing", "It makes sense you don't feel comfortable with doctors who are not allies"). • Avoiding negative labels (e.g., "worry about" instead of "freaked out") may be particularly important to battle stigma.	Does my student have culturally-specific needs or preferences for help? Your student may have specific preferences for support. For example, many ethnic minority individuals prefer non-professional rather than professional sources of help, like friends, trusted adults, or family members as their first line of support. Ask your student what they prefer, and keep in mind that the more support a student has, the better – encourage them						
Particularly important to be a solution of the solution of	to reach out and build their safety net of support.  Agent, M., Valka, M., & Paruneira, A. I. (2021, Racia and ethnic disparties in podariar mental health. Child and Addelecced Psychoteric Clinics, 19(4), 799-774, Agenty, M., Green, J. (), Matagolin, K., et al. (2017, Sociode nish farosa and ethnic and and entertile health services in the U.S. New York, WY: Williem 7. Grant Foundation.  Agenty of A., Ragenty, D., Hursey, T., & Alwanov, A. R. (2027). Sociode nish farosa and entertile health services in the U.S. New York, WY: Williem 7. Grant Foundation.						

## BSBB For Suicide Prevention



- **Goals**: Detect possible suicide risk and connect them to appropriate help
  - Cultural infusion for foundational information
    - Cultural stigma of suicide
    - Disaggregating suicide data/statistics
    - Cultural variations of suicide warning signs
    - Cultural & Equity Factors that magnify warning signs
    - How to connect to community members in a culturally responsive way
    - How to ask the question about suicide cross-culturally
    - Referring responsively to culturally preferred resources



## Cultural Codes Present in BSBB Not for further distribution; subject to change. By Chiu, Corpus, Lien, & Chu, 2022.

& Awareness	Culturally Informed Risk Factors & Warning Signs	Identifies cultural variation in factors that increase an individual's risk for suicide and cultural variations in behavioral, cognitive, emotional signs that an individual m be thinking of suicide.	y	Culturally Responsive Identification of Suicide Risk or Acute Crisis	Teaches how to identify presence of suicide risk or acute crisis based on cultural context and to then provide connection to professional care.	
	Culturally Relevant Data	Presents culturally or locally relevant information about suicide. Includes the disaggregation of data by cultural identity subgroups.		Culturally Responsive Communication	Presents culturally responsive ways of talking about suicide and listening, reflecting, and responding to	
Suicide Knowledge	Cultural Beliefs	Acknowledges cultural variations in beliefs and attitudes about stressors, life, mental health, wellness, death, and suicide.			problems empathetically and nonjudgmentally.	
iicide	Cultural Protective Factors	Identifies cultural variations in factors that can protect someone from suicide.		Culturally Relevant	Teaches culturally responsive skills in referring and	
Su	Intersectionality	Acknowledges cultural intersectionality in relation to suicion factors and prevention.		Referrals	connecting individual in crisis with culturally relevant suicide resources. Includes list of culturally relevant	
	System Inequities	Acknowledges how systemic inequities impact suicide fac and prevention.	ors		resources.	Ċ
sl	Self-efficacy of Cultural Knowledge and Skills	Increases participant confidence, comfort, and sense of preparedness to identify suicide cross-culturally and use culturally responsive suicide intervention skills.				
ion Skills		Increases likelihood, probability, and willingness that participant will engage in the culturally responsive		Training Presentation	Training approach is flexible and adaptive by considering cultural learning needs to increase engagement.	ery
ervent	Knowledge and Skills	suicide intervention behavior and/or whether culturally responsive knowledge and skills were used after the training.		Community Collaboration	Collaborates with members of cultural communities to devise, implement, evaluate, and maintain suicide	ו Delivery
Suicide Intervention	Participant Satisfaction with Cultural Content	Participant appraises training to be satisfactory, useful, or helpful for diverse cultural groups.			prevention programming.	Curriculum
ici	Post-Training Follow-Up	Training assesses long-term retention of cultural knowledge and skills.		Centering Strength	Training is centered around cultural strengths throughout	urri

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Variables	М	SD	М	SD	t-test	Partial eta <sup>2</sup>	Effect size
1. I know the warning signs for suicide	3.63	0.83	4.39	0.56	-18.59***	0.48	Large
<ol> <li>I am able to identify someone who is at risk for making a suicide attempt</li> </ol>	3.33	0.92	4.24	0.60	-21.22***	0.55	Large
<ol> <li>I feel prepared to discuss with someone my concern about the signs of suicidal distress they are exhibiting</li> </ol>	3.25	1.06	4.26	0.57	-19.66***	0.51	Large
<ol> <li>I am aware of the resources necessary to refer someone in a suicide crisis</li> </ol>	3.47	0.95	4.46	0.56	-21.43***	0.55	Large
<ol> <li>I am confident in my ability to make a referral for someone in a suicide crisis</li> </ol>	3.35	0.99	4.31	0.67	-19.59***	0.51	Large
<ol> <li>I have the skills necessary to support or intervene with someone thinking about suicide</li> </ol>	3.02	1.02	4.17	0.68	-23.84***	0.61	Large
<ol> <li>I understand and can identify a number of ways in which culture affects how suicide is expressed and experienced</li> </ol>	3.29	0.95	4.17	0.65	-18.09***	0.47	Large
<ol> <li>I feel prepared to help people from diverse cultural backgrounds with their suicidal distress</li> </ol>	2.88	0.96	4.00	0.76	-23.42***	0.60	Large
Mean Score, all 8 items	3.28	0.74	4.25	0.52	-29.44***	0.70	Large

	Improves trainees' knowledge and skills in:
	<ul> <li>Identifying suicide warning signs</li> <li>Asking about suicidal thoughts</li> <li>Identifying someone at risk for suicide attempt</li> </ul>
BSBB for	Improves trainees' readiness to
SP Evidence Basis	<ul> <li>Talk about suicide with others in distress</li> <li>Support someone with suicidal thoughts</li> <li>Identify suicide prevention resources</li> <li>Connect someone with help</li> </ul>
DUSIS	Increases trainees' cultural responsivity in:
	<ul> <li>Identifying ways that culture affects how suicide is expressed</li> <li>Feeling prepared to help people from diverse cultural</li> </ul>
	backgrounds





- Variables		Pre-Training (N=198-365)		Post-Training (N=133-293)			
		SD	М	SD	t-test	Cohen's d	Effect size
I. I can identify warning signs for mental illness	3.68	0.75	4.39	0.64	-12.84***	-1.01	Large
<ol> <li>I understand the difference between mental health and mental illness</li> </ol>	3.67	1.01	4.37	0.69	-10.12***	-0.80	Large
3. I understand the meaning of 2-3 mental health diagnoses (i.e. depression, bipolar disorder, etc.)	3.73	1.01	4.37	0.69	-10.88***	-0.85	Large
<ol> <li>I feel prepared to support someone struggling with mental health concerns.</li> </ol>	3.36	0.99	4.28	0.71	-13.43***	-1.06	Large
5. I am confident in my ability to encourage someone to get connected with mental health resources or help.	3.61	0.99	4.23	0.76	-8.78***	-0.70	Medium- Large
5. I can identify strategies that will help me or my loved one cope with stress and maintain good mental health.	3.67	0.84	4.29	0.68	-10.29***	-0.81	Large
<ol> <li>I can name 2-3 local services I can access if I or my loved one need mental health support.</li> </ol>	3.22	1.16	4.32	0.79	-13.89***	-1.09	Large
<ol> <li>I understand and can identify a number of ways in which culture affects mental health/mental illness.</li> </ol>	3.74	0.99	4.21	0.74	-6.80***	-0.53	Medium
<ol> <li>I feel prepared to help people from diverse cultural backgrounds with their mental health concerns.</li> </ol>	3.24	1.07	4.05	0.77	-7.59***	-0.84	Large
10. I would feel inadequate if I went to a therapist for psychological help (note: double negative)	2.09	0.89	1.82	0.85	2.77**	0.31	Small-Medium
<ol> <li>Most people in my community would treat someone who has been treated for a mental illness just as they would treat anyone else.</li> </ol>	2.88	1.01	3.24	1.01	-3.15***	-0.35	Small-Medium
Mean Score, all 11 items	3.46	0.68	4.17	0.58	-14.24***	1.12	Large

\*\* p < .05. Note. Small effect size if d=.2. medium effect size if d=.5. large effect size if d >.8.

