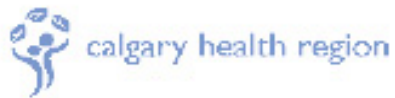


IMMIGRANT MATERNAL HEALTH RESPONSE

Linda Kongnetiman MSW, RSW



Child and Women's Health
Diversity Program



Introduction

“Being a woman, being foreign-born, you’ve got to be smarter than anyone else”

Indra Nooyi

Introduction



Introduction

There is a large body of evidence on the impact of culture on illness behavior and experience. Social and cultural processes shape the mechanisms of disease, the symptoms of distress, and subsequent ways of coping or help-seeking.

Kirmayer, 2005

Introduction



Asian women have a smaller incidence of cancer rates one quarter to one half less of white American women. However, one generation later, the cancer rates approach that of the host culture.

Kagawa-Singer

“The challenge is to develop tools in research, intervention and planning that will lead to a better understanding of the dynamics of diversity as it operates and effects health.”

Bilkis Vissandjee, 2001



Health Disparities

In the USA people of color are less likely to have health insurance coverage, to see a provider on a regular basis, and to receive preventive screenings or routine health care services.

At the same time, people of color are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of disease and to be hospitalized for preventable conditions.

Health Disparities *cont'd*

“Language, culture and medical research are three major barriers between ethnic subpopulations and adequate health care.”

Carol Amaratunga, 2001

Identifying Disparities

The term “racial and ethnic health disparities” is an umbrella term that includes disparities in *health* and disparities in *health care*.

Disparities in health: differences between two or more population groups in health outcomes and in the prevalence, incidence, or burden of disease, disability, injury, or death.

Identifying Disparities *cont'd*

Disparities in health care: differences between two or more population groups in health care access, coverage, and quality of care, including differences in preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services.

Importance of Inter-Cultural Competency

- Outreach
- Research
- Training & Education

Innovative Programs

- ❑ Best Beginnings Outreach workers
- ❑ Early Intervention Program
- ❑ Child & Women's Health Diversity Program
- ❑ Immigrant Serving Agencies

What you can do!

- Research and Quality Improvement projects
- Knowledge about disparities of women of color
- Community leaders action
- Influence new programs and policies
- Incorporate inter-cultural competence

“Culturally relevant community based research on social and economic inclusion is required to shape policy professional education and ultimately service delivery”.

Carol Amaratunga, 2001

Conclusion

“It’s the action not the fruit of the action that is important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there will be any fruit. But that does not mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no results”.

Mahatma Gandhi

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For Further Information

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