

Access to Information about Developmental Disabilities within the Arab American Community

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Background

It is critical to comprehend the attitudes toward people with disabilities when analyzing sociodemographic traits, social networks, and acculturation trends among the Arab American community. (Zidan, 2017)

Research has shown that counselors must assess the amount of acculturation among Arab American clients and alter their approach and intervention accordingly. (Khateeb et al., 2014)

Methods

A small group of four Arab Americans ranging in age from 23-33 years participated in this project.

Questions were distributed through Google Forms to give participants a chance to review them.

A community conversation was held over Zoom to allow flexibility for participants.



Objective

This relatively small project sought to determine how a local Arab American community obtains information regarding developmental disabilities, as well as the best method for reaching the Arab American community.

References

- Al Khateeb, J. M., Al Hadidi, M. S., & Al Khatib, A. J. (2014). Arab americans with disabilities and their families: a culturally appropriate approach for counselors. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, 42(4), 232-247. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.2161-1912.2014.00057.x>
- Zidan, T. (2017). Stigma Toward Persons with Developmental Disabilities Among Arab Americans: A Notional Study. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.3998/jmmh.10381607.0011.108>

Results

75% of focus group participants access their information about developmental disabilities on the internet.

All participants agreed that obtaining information on developmental disabilities from someone with a similar cultural background would be preferable.

All participants agreed that stigmas and preconceptions had an impact on their and their families' capacity to accept new knowledge when they have previously been misled by misinformation

Conclusion

It's crucial to acknowledge the role that cultural competency plays when examining how communities access information about developmental disabilities.

Research on the way Arab Americans access information related to developmental disabilities is limited.

On a larger scale, this research could spark discussions and solutions about how to provide accurate information about developmental disabilities to the Arab American community while remaining culturally sensitive.