Exploring the Cultures of Youth: Policy Implications

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- Exploring “Culture”
- Exploring “Youth Culture”
- Exploring the “Youth Cultures”
- Exploring the “Youth Cultures” in your state
- Exploring Policy Implications
Culture

Culture is an integrated pattern of human behavior which includes but is not limited to:

- thought
- languages
- values
- beliefs
- customs
- rituals
- practices
- relationships
- communication
- manners of interacting
- roles
- expected behaviors

... of a racial, ethnic, religious, social, or political group; the ability to transmit the above to succeeding generations. It is dynamic in nature.
An Iceberg Concept of Culture

Dress age
gender
language
race or ethnicity
physical
characteristics

eye behavior
facial expressions
body language
sense of self
gender identity

notions of modesty
concept of cleanliness

emotional response patterns
rules for social interaction
child rearing practices
decision-making processes
approaches to problem solving
concept of justice

value individual vs. group
perceptions of mental health, health, illness, disability

patterns of superior and subordinate roles in relation to status by
age, gender, class
sexual identity & orientation

and much more…

Slide Source: The National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin: State 2000

Georgia     8,186,453

White                  5,327,281
Black or African American 2,349,542
American Indian & Alaska Native  21,737
Asian                  173,170
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander  4,246
Hispanic or Latino     435,227
Some Other Race        196,289
Two or More Races      114,188

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File for States and Puerto Rico.  
Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
## Religious Affiliations*  
**Georgia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>Number of Adherents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>2,273,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainline Protestant</td>
<td>825,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>7,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>374,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>185,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Jewish Estimate.</td>
<td>93,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Muslim Estimate.</td>
<td>38,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclaimed</td>
<td>4,520,903</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Archives 188 denominations. Does not include historically African American denominations.

Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
Multiple Cultural Identities

Slide Source: 2010 - National Center for Cultural Competence
Cultural Factors That Influence Diversity Among Individuals and Groups

Internal Factors

- Cultural/Racial/Ethnic Identity
- Tribal Affiliation/Clan
- Nationality
- Acculturation/Assimilation
- Socioeconomic Status/Class
- Education
- Language
- Literacy
- Family Constellation
- Social History
- Perception of Time

- Health Beliefs & Practices
- Health Literacy
- Perception of Disability
- Perception of Mental Health
- Age & Life Cycle Issues
- Gender & Sexuality
- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression
- Religion & Spiritual Views
- Spatial & Regional Patterns
- Political Orientation/Affiliation

Adapted with permission from James Mason, Ph.D., NCCC Senior Consultant

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Cultural Factors That Influence Diversity Among Individuals and Groups

External Factors

- Institutional Biases
- Racism & Discrimination
- Community Economics
- Intergroup Relations
- Group & Community Resiliency

Natural Networks of Support
- Community History
- Political Climate
- Workforce Diversity
- Community Demographics

Adapted with permission from James Mason, Ph.D., NCCC Senior Consultant

Slide Source: © 2010 - National Center for Cultural Competence
Highlights of Youth Culture

- Fast pace
- Technology driven
- Global citizens—concern for others
- Driven
- Connected

Creative

Dichotomous:
- Equally passionate & dispassionate
- Conscious & unaware
- Dependent & independent
- Considerate & risky

Brittany Couch, 2010

Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
The Cultures of Youth

- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Youth with mental health challenges and youth with developmental disabilities
- Homelessness/Sofa-hopping (often linked issues related to employment and financial aid)

Couch and Jackson, 2010
The Cultures of Youth

- Youth from immigrant families
- Youth from refugee families
- Youth from migrant families
- Racial groups
- Ethnic groups

Couch and Jackson, 2010

Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
The Cultures of Youth

Experience groups
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice/Corrections
- Residential Treatment

Couch and Jackson, 2010

Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
Who is in Your State?

- What are the prominent youth culture(s) in your state?
- What are the unique service issues for them?
Service Implications: Stages of care

- Help seeking
- Access
- Assessment & Diagnosis
- Treatment/Service Planning & Implementation
- Outcomes, Satisfaction & Quality Management
- Post-Intervention Status

Source: Vivian Jackson, 1997
Jackson & Jackson Mental Health & Addiction Consultants, Inc.
Policy Implications: Related to Cultural factors

Differential experiences and outcomes based on differences in:
- Availability
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Appropriateness
- Acceptability
Policy and Service Implications: Infrastructure Building

Legislation, regulations, rules, standards, memoranda of understanding, policies, etc. that influence:

- Service Functions
- Human Resources & Staff Development
- Fiscal Resources & Allocation
- Collaboration & Community Engagement
- Contracts
Other Policy Implications

- State Advocacy Offices for Young Adults

Slide Source: National Center for Cultural Competence, 2010
Youth are diverse inside and out

- Many different Layers
- From different cultures and backgrounds
- With their own unique perspective on their environment