Addiction in the Asian American Communities

Cultural Considerations and Case Discussion

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Addiction in the Asian American Communities

- Co-occurrence of mental health and addictive behaviors (substance dependence, substance abuse, gambling, and eating disorder) leading to COD (Co-Occurring Disorder).

- Under-utilization of services (mental health and medical health) by Asian American communities. 8% AAPI compared to 16% non-AAPI enter substance abuse treatment.

- Treatment retention, duration and outcome data are similar across AAPI and non-AAPI, suggesting that AAPI do respond to treatment and that barriers to treatment are essential in addressing.
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Interventions, Implementation:

- Theory (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Harm Reduction, Milieu Therapy and Family Systems)
- Assessment (SAMHSA Twelve Steps Process)
- Intervention (Leveraging cultural, spiritual and social dialogue)
- Case Management (Consider functioning, family and goals)
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SAMSHA Twelve Steps in the Assessment Process

1. Engage the client (person centered; trauma)
2. Identify and contact collaterals to gather information (family, friends, other provider)
3. Screen for/detect COD (safety screening; SSI-SA)
4. Determine quadrant and locus of responsibility
5. Determine level of care (6 dimensions of care)
6. Determine diagnosis
7. Determine disability and functional impairment
8. Identify strengths and supports
9. Identify cultural and linguistic needs and supports
10. Identify problem domains (ASI tool)
11. Determine stage of change (8 stages of change)
12. Plan treatment
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Population Stats and High Risk Groups

- Epidemiology and Impact: Usage rates compared to national data. Data from SAMSHA 2000 report 5% AAPI illicit drug use of which 70% were foreign born.

- Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) less than one percent of all patients who are admitted to national treatment surveys report themselves as AAPI; reflection of healthcare disparity.

- Japanese Americans had equal rate to national average. Mixed AAPI had higher rate at 11%.
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Readings:

- [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1913701](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1913701)
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Information/resources:

- [http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/179/SUAsianAdults.htm](http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/179/SUAsianAdults.htm)
- [www.multiculturalmentalhealth.org](http://www.multiculturalmentalhealth.org)