

“Bridging Generations for Healthier Communities”

African American Multi-Generations
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Historical and Cultural Influences

- ▶ A history of involuntary immigration and enslavement
- ▶ Four centuries of social and economic oppression
- ▶ Past and current discrimination, contemporary social conditions (i.e. poverty, economic inequality).

Social Influences

That have shaped the dynamics of past & modern African American families include:

- ▶ Racism
- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Urbanization

Multigenerations in African American Families

- ▶ Factors that Increase Numbers of Multigenerational Families *(a real life example)*

In the Williams family, Devon came into the care of a relative (grandmother) due to his mother's substance abuse and father's history of incarceration.

Other Common Challenges In African American Families

- ▶ Housing shortages
- ▶ High housing costs
- ▶ Areas with a large number of unwed mothers living with parents
- ▶ Growing numbers of older adults living longer
- ▶ Increasing numbers of grandparents and other relatives raising children due to: poverty, death of a parent, child abuse and/or neglect, HIV/AIDS, incarceration, mental health problems, family violence & homelessness

Grandparents

- ▶ Grandparents especially grandmothers are **Bridging the Gap** of the African American family.
- ▶ According to AARP 7.8 million children are living in grandparents homes.
- ▶ 2.5 million grandparents are taking on the responsibility for these children, 1 million are households where neither biological parent is present in the home

Last Line of Defense

- ▶ Through out African American history, efforts of relative caregivers, have proven to be the *last line of defense* in keeping elderly parents and related children from entering skilled nursing facilities and the foster care system.
- ▶ However, this line of defense increases stress
- ▶ more support for the African American caregiver and/or family member is needed

Multigenerational Community Challenges – WATTS

- ▶ 2.12 square – mile neighborhood within the South Los Angeles region.
- ▶ Averaging about 17,346 people per square mile
- ▶ 37.1% African American
- ▶ 38.9% Large households headed by single parents.

Watts – Cont.

- ▶ \$25,161.00 median income
- ▶ WLCAC case management reports over 96% of seniors have a median income of \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per month
- ▶ Crime & incarceration over a 6 months period Sept. 5, 2016 to March 5, 2017 – 354 violent crimes and 563 property crimes.

Community Challenges – South Los Angeles

- ▶ Historically the population has been predominantly African American.
- ▶ There are 39 physicians per 100,000 residents in South Los Angeles compared to 1000 physicians per 100,000 in the West SPA.
- ▶ Health Disparities – 20% of 50 and older have diabetes, South Los Angeles has the highest rate of hypertension at 64%.
- ▶ High rate of homelessness

Cultural Resources

- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Mutual/social support systems
- ▶ Ethnic & Cultural identity
- ▶ Adaptive extended family structures
- ▶ Church as offering both ideological and instrumental support
- ▶ Local community based organizations

Best Practices

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Right to get involved (seniors & their families)
- ▶ Promote sustainable decisions by raising awareness to your team and stakeholders.
- ▶ Communicate to community members how their input affects the decision.
- ▶ Share responsibility with regards to planning for change and implementation.

Closing

- ▶ Failing to understand the African American or any ethnic community will make it difficult for you to connect with community members and to negotiate the twist and turns in starting and implementing an intervention.

Good News! We Are Getting It!

- ▶ Office of Women's Health, LA County Department of Public Health
- ▶ City of Los Angeles Department of Aging
- ▶ County of Los Angeles, Work Force Development Aging and Community Services (WDACS)
- ▶ Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging (L.A. CAPRA)
- ▶ Partners in Care Foundation (EBPs)
- ▶ Thomas Safran & Associates (TSA) "Big Give"

Sources

- ▶ Los Angeles Times Mapping (2017)
- ▶ South L.A. Watts (2008)
- ▶ City of Los Angeles Department of Planning
- ▶ LAPD Crime Report (2016–2017)
- ▶ 2000 Census
- ▶ Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging
(L.A. CAPRA PBS.org)
- ▶ Oscar Barbarin, PhD Professor University of North Carolina and Jenny Nicolson, MSW Student (2002) “Characteristics of African American Families”
- ▶ AARP 2017 Grand facts Sheets
- ▶ University of Southern California (USC) Healthy Aging Report (2015)



Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging
(L.A. CAPRA)



L.A. CAPRA Event Participants



WLCAC Senior Housing – EBP Site >>

Ramona Estates Senior Community, Compton, CA



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Thank you! »»