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“Multiculturalism” Survey Reveals Differing Views Between Hispanics/Asians and Caucasians/African-Americans

Pulsepoints 2010 Identifies Word Association In Culturally Competent Healthcare

WASHINGTON, DC – Hispanic/Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders view the term “multiculturalism” differently than Caucasians and African-Americans, according to a new survey released by HealthHIV. Results of the *HealthHIV Pulsepoints 2010: Multiculturalism and Cultural Competency* survey reveal Caucasians and African-Americans ranked “race” as the most important term defining multiculturalism, while Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders most often selected “language.”

“There is a perceptual gap among racial and ethnic groups over which terms define multiculturalism, which should be considered when developing culturally competent HIV services,” said HealthHIV Executive Director Brian Hujdich. “This survey reveals a need to look at race, ethnicity, language, gender and sexual identity as integrated, not isolated, factors when providing culturally competent care to people living with, or at risk for, HIV.”

This wordcloud illustrates each term respondents were provided in the *Pulsepoints* survey as descriptors of multiculturalism. Each word is weighted based upon how frequently it was selected.

Socioeconomic



“The data may imply that deeper differences exist among racial and ethnic groups which can impact cultural fluency,” said Paul Angelone, HealthHIV Research Associate.

The *HealthHIV Pulsepoints 2010: Multiculturalism and Cultural Competency* survey collected online survey responses between April 9 – May 4, 2010 from respondents across the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Sixty-one percent of respondents identified as primary care providers, HIV specialists, or HIV primary care providers. The majority of respondents were White (46%), followed by African-American (21%), Hispanic/Latino (23%), Asian/Pacific Islander (7%), Other (5%), and Native American (2%).

The following chart details the responses.

What does the term "multiculturalism" mean?						
Terms	Respondents by Race/Ethnicity (n=53)					
	African/African American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino	White	Total
Age	3.8%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	18.9%	30.2%
Gender	3.8%	0.0%	1.9%	9.4%	18.9%	34.0%
Race	17.0%	1.9%	3.8%	7.5%	35.8%	66.0%
Ethnicity	20.8%	0.0%	7.5%	17.0%	41.5%	86.8%
Geographic Location	9.4%	0.0%	1.9%	15.1%	26.4%	52.8%
Language	7.5%	0.0%	7.5%	17.0%	34.0%	66.0%
HIV Serostatus	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	13.2%	22.6%
Sexual Orientation	3.8%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	20.8%	32.1%
Addiction	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	11.3%	20.8%
Mental Health	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	11.3%	20.8%
Incarceration	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	11.3%	20.8%
Socioeconomic Status	5.7%	0.0%	1.9%	7.5%	22.6%	37.7%
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	1.9%	5.7%

Terms Provided Respondents and Their Selection by Race/Ethnicity

For more data collected in this survey, contact Victor Maldonado at victor@healthhiv.org; and to learn more about HealthHIV, visit www.healthhiv.org.

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HealthHIV is the premier, national HIV non-profit working with organizations, communities and professionals to advance effective prevention, care, and support for people living with, or at risk for, HIV through education and training, technical assistance and capacity building, advocacy, and health services research and evaluation. HealthHIV supports primary care providers treating HIV, as well as community and faith-based organizations involved in HIV prevention, care and treatment.