For further details regarding the information presented in this brief, or to join the NCTSN Culture Listserv, please contact Susan Ko, PhD at sko@mednet.ucla.edu, or by telephone at (310) 235-2633 x234.

Adopting a Broader View of Culture

While culturally competent trauma treatment and practices are increasingly recognized as a necessity for quality care, there remains a gap in available data on trauma exposure among children from diverse cultural groups. The little research that exists tends to focus on ethnicity and race. The NCTSN has adopted a broader view of culture in trying to understand the impact of trauma on diverse cultural groups. It is important that race and ethnicity do not become proxy terms for other variables related to culture, such as socioeconomic status and acculturation. The NCTSN's initiatives on cultural competence, therefore, include representation of other populations who are often excluded from discussions of race and ethnicity, such as immigrant and refugee youth, disabled youth (e.g., deaf and hard of hearing), homeless youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth, religious/spiritual youth, and youth living in rural areas.

The Availability of Expertise in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network

The NCTSN includes professionals who have developed treatments for children and families of diverse cultural groups, adapted treatments to account for the important role of culture, and who have conducted cultural competence trainings nationally and internationally. Most importantly, the NCTSN is comprised of experienced and expert practitioners who work directly with children and families from diverse cultural groups in their communities, each and every day. We have established the NCTSN Culture Consortium as a mechanism to continue to promote culturally competent trauma-informed trauma treatments and practices. We have also created a culture listserv to provide a forum for engaging in this important discussion about the fusion of culture and trauma, and also for obtaining consultation and recommendations for resources. For more information about these initiatives and/or to join the NCTSN culture listserv, please email Susan Ko, PhD at sko@mednet.ucla.edu.

For more information about the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, go to www.NCTSN.org.

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