



HRSA,HHS Partners Publish Cultural Competence Series for Health Care Providers

The Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has produced the "Cultural Competence Series" to help health care professionals who are serving diverse racial and ethnic communities evaluate and provide culturally sensitive care.

Each edition of the series is a collection of articles presenting approaches to providing culturally competent health services. The two most recent issues address diversity among Pacific Islanders and African Americans.

The Seventh Edition is titled "Cultural Competence for Health Care Professionals Working With African-American Communities: Theory and Practice." Among others, it contains an article by Marion Primas, Ph.D., and Sharon Barrett, M.S., in BPHC's Office of Minority and Women's Health on "African-American Women: A Health Crisis Perspective." The article cites statistics showing continuing health disparities for African-American women and explores some of the possible reasons for these disparities, including institutional racism, less education, socioeconomic deprivation and lack of access to quality health care systems.

The Eighth Edition, "Responding to Pacific Islanders: Culturally Competent Perspectives for Substance Abuse Prevention," looks at cultural factors that influence primary health care practices among the Pacific Islander community. The publication focuses on the similarities and differences among Pacific Islander communities and discusses how culture serves as a catalyst for healing through the design, implementation and evaluation of culturally sensitive prevention approaches.

For more information or to receive a copy of these publications, contact Leonard Epstein, in BPHC's Office of Minority and Women's Health, at 301-594-3803.