

Designing Culturally Relevant Services for Asian & Pacific Islander Youth

Presented by:

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Culture and language may influence

- Youth and their families:

Health practices

Seeking help

Beliefs about laws and crime

Marriage and cohabitating

Education

Drug use and abuse

Parenting practices

Household dynamics

- The delivery of services by the provider who looks at the world through his or her own limited set of values, which can compromise access for youth from other cultures.

Working with API Youth and Families

- Recognize that you will never understand everything about every culture you encounter . . . And show that you are willing to learn about other cultures.
- Recognize the ways in which your own culture and values influence the way you work with youth.

Working with API Youth and Families

- Don't generalize about culture – All Caucasians are not alike; neither are Asian and Pacific Islander youth. What works in one cultural group may not be effective with another group.
- Encourage young people to share their culture with others.

Working with API Youth and Families

- Seek staff and volunteers that are representative of your community's ethnic and cultural diversity.



Working with API Youth and Families

- Look at your facilities and décor. Are they welcoming to Asian and Pacific youth?

For example:

Do posters/pictures portray API youth?

Do refreshments include familiar foods and utensils?

Avoid stereotypes.



Working with API Youth and Families

- Staff and volunteer training
 - Teach people how to learn about cultures in an open, accepting manner.
 - Culture is multi-sensory. Include tastes, smells, sights, sounds, touch.



Working with API Youth and Families

- People are not stereotypes of their culture.



Josie, a Chuukese woman, interrupts her traditional craft making demo to answer her cell phone

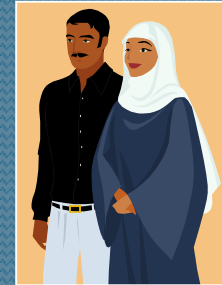
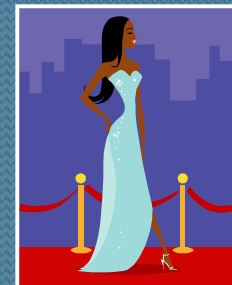
Working with API Youth and Families

- Find out what's okay/what's offensive.

Examples



Showing soles
of shoes

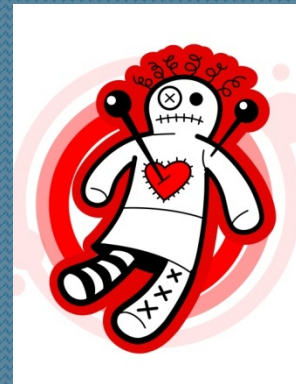


Wearing wrong
clothing

Adaptation for API Youth and Families

Make sure that the concepts as well as the words are translated.

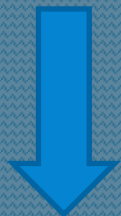
- Mental illness = disease
- Mental illness = witchcraft or curse



Adaptation for API Youth and Families

- Address risk and protective factors of your population.

HIV risks from sharing needles
among Pacific Islanders:



Low levels of IV drug use



Tattoos common

Adaptation for API Youth and Families

- Consider literacy levels/reading difficulty.



*Caleb reads to Suzi, the reading therapy dog,
from Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs*

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