

## Information om Transkulturel Psykiatri, februar 2009

### NYHEDER

#### Nye afsoningssteder til kriminelle unge flygtninge

Dansk Flygtningehjælps hjemmeside 24. februar 2009

Der er ofte uopdagede psykiske lidelser og traumer med i bagagen når kriminelle unge med flygtningebaggrund sendes til afsoning i danske fængsler. Hvis den rette hjælp sættes ind i tide, vil kriminelle unge nemmere kunne bryde deres kriminelle løbebane. Det mener Dansk Flygtningehjælp, der er i dialog med Århus kommune om en helt ny type afsoningsinstitutioner under titlen 'Den Pædagogiske Fodlænke'.

læs pressemeddelelsen her :

[http://flygtning.dk/Enkel\\_nyhed.1120.0.html?&cHash=06e668223d&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=1334&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=944](http://flygtning.dk/Enkel_nyhed.1120.0.html?&cHash=06e668223d&tx_ttnews[backPid]=1334&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=944)

#### Medicin gør patienter mere syge

Politikens netavis 17. februar 2009 / Anders Legarth Schmidt

Medicin virker ikke på afrikanere

Hvorfor hjælper medicinen ikke?

»Jeg har prøvet at undersøge det, for vi ser det problem for flere af vores patienter med afrikansk afstamning. Det mest effektive stof mod skizofreni – og det er Leponex – virker simpelthen ikke på afrikanerne, og jeg har hørt fra kolleger i udlandet, at de har de samme erfaringer. Jeg har været på konferencer, hvor jeg har spurgt producenten om, hvordan det kan være. De lovede at undersøge det, men svarede aldrig. Så det er lidt af et mysterium for os. Derfor må vi bruge andre former for behandling for at komme ind til patienten. Blandt andet musikterapi«.

læs artiklen her : <http://politiken.dk/indland/article650721.ece>

### LITTERATUR

#### ARTIKLER FRA FAGLIGE TIDSSKRIFTER

##### Acculturation and depressive symptoms in Korean immigrant women

Choi, JiWon; Miller, Arlene; Wilbur, JoEllen

##### Abstract

Depression is one of the most prevalent health problems for immigrants in the United States (U.S.) and it has been associated with the process of acculturation. A cross-sectional study was conducted to identify subgroups of Korean immigrant women based on their Korean as well as American acculturation levels using cluster analysis and to determine whether these subgroups differ on depressive symptoms in 200 Korean immigrant women aged 20–64. Cluster analysis identified four as the most appropriate number of subgroups: they were designated as Korean cluster (45%), Marginalized cluster (26%), American cluster (22%), and Bicultural cluster (7%). Korean cluster had high scores on Korean acculturation and low American acculturation, Marginalized had low for both, American had high scores on American acculturation, low for Korean acculturation, and Bicultural had high scores for both. Women in the Marginalized subgroup reported significantly higher depression scores than women in the American and Korean clusters. It is important to identify immigrants who do not relate to either their heritage culture or the new host culture and address their mental health risk issues.

**Keywords** Acculturation - Cluster analysis - Depression - Korean immigrant women

**Journal of immigrant and minority health** 11(1), 13-19, 2009

##### Adherence to antipsychotics among Latinos and Asians with schizophrenia and limited English proficiency

Gilmer, Todd P.; Ojeda, Victoria D.; Barrio, Concepcion; Fuentes, Dahlia; Garcia, Piedad; Lanouette, Nicole M.; Lee, Kelly C.

##### Abstract

##### Objectives

The authors examined data for 7,784 Latino, Asian, and non-Latino white Medi-Cal beneficiaries with schizophrenia to determine the relationship between patients' preferred language for mental health services—English, Spanish, or an Asian language—and their adherence to treatment with antipsychotic medications.

##### Methods

Data reflected 31,560 person-years from 1999 to 2004. Pharmacy records were analyzed to assess medication adherence by use of the medication possession ratio (MPR). Clients were defined as nonadherent (MPR<.5),

partially adherent (MPR=.5–<.8), or adherent (MPR=.8–1.1) or as an excess filler of prescriptions (MPR<1.1). Regression models were used to examine adherence, hospitalization, and costs by race-ethnicity and language status.

#### **Results**

Latinos with limited English proficiency were more likely than English-proficient Latinos to be medication adherent (41% versus 36%;  $p<.001$ ) and less likely to be excess fillers (15% versus 20%;  $p<.001$ ). Asians with limited English proficiency were less likely than English-proficient Asians to be adherent (40% versus 45%;  $p=.034$ ), more likely to be nonadherent (29% versus 22%;  $p<.001$ ), and less likely to be excess fillers (13% versus 17%;  $p=.004$ ). When analyses controlled for adherence and comorbidities, clients with limited English proficiency had lower rates of hospitalization and lower health care costs than English-proficient and white clients.

#### **Conclusions**

Adherence to antipsychotic medications varied by English proficiency among and within ethnic groups. Policies supporting the training of bilingual and multicultural providers from ethnic minority groups and interventions that capitalize on patients' existing social support networks may improve adherence to treatment in linguistically diverse populations.

**Psychiatric services 60(2), 175-182, 2009**

## **Changes in perceived health and depressive symptoms : a longitudinal analysis with older Korean Americans**

Jang, Yuri; Chiriboga, David A.; Kim, Giyeon; Cho, Soyeon

#### **Abstract**

The present study examined changes in the perceived health of older Korean Americans ( $n=141$ ) over a 2-year period: 2003 (T1) and 2005 (T2). A hierarchical regression model of changes in perceived health was estimated with the following array of predictors: (1) background variables (age, gender, marital status, education, and length of stay in the United States), (2) initial perceived health (T1), (3) physical and mental health conditions at T1 (chronic conditions, functional disability, and depressive symptoms), and (4) changes in physical and mental health conditions (T2–T1). When the effects of background variables and baseline perceived health were controlled, baseline chronic conditions and changes in both chronic conditions and depressive symptoms were found to predict changes in perceived health. Older individuals who initially had more chronic conditions and those who had experienced an increasing number of chronic conditions and depressive symptoms over 2 years viewed their health more negatively at follow-up. Findings highlight the importance of interventions for disease management and mental health promotion to enhance subjective health among older Korean immigrants.

**Keywords** health – depression - Korean American elders

**Journal of immigrant and minority health 11(1), 7-12, 2009**

## **Effectiveness of psychotherapy with refugees and asylum seekers : preliminary results from an Austrian study**

Renner, Walter

#### **Abstract**

An Austrian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) offered psychotherapy to 37 asylum seekers and refugees (21 of them female) with a mean age of 36.1 years ( $s=7.5$ ), with the majority of them from Chechnya or Afghanistan. Comparative data between the start of therapy and the time of evaluation revealed a highly significant positive effect ( $d=0.77$ ), while most therapies were still going on. By a retrospective measure of perceived change, 85% of the participants reported significant improvements. The results show that even under difficult conditions, when working with asylum seekers and refugees, psychotherapy can be effective.

**Keywords** asylum – refugee – psychotherapy - evaluation

**Journal of immigrant and minority health 11(1), 41-45, 2009**

## **Help-seeking behaviour of patients attending the psychiatric service in a sample of United Arab Emirates population**

Salem, Mohamed Omar; Saleh, Bader; Yousef, Said; Sabri, Sufyan

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

Many patients suffering from psychiatric disorders seek non-professional care before attending specialized services.

### **Aims**

To study the help-seeking behaviour of patients referred to the psychiatric department of Al-Ain Hospital, which is the main university teaching hospital in UAE.

### **Methods**

This study was a descriptive cross-sectional epidemiological survey. All new patients attending the psychiatry out-patient clinic at Al-Ain Hospital were screened for nine consecutive months from March to November 2003 inclusive.

### **Results**

The sample consisted of 106 patients (52 male; 54 female). Prior to presenting to the psychiatric service, 44.8% consulted faith healers, 31% of whom had had a previous experience with them; 45% reported some improvement but their symptoms recurred later, while 47% reported no improvement. In 8% their symptoms worsened for the current episode. Treatments received were herbal (29.8%) and prayer (70.2%). Of the sample, 43.4% consulted a primary care physician before presenting to the secondary psychiatric care.

### **Conclusion**

In this sample a sizable number of patients sought alternative methods of treatment before attending the specialized psychiatric services.

Key Words help-seeking - faith healers - psychiatric illness - herbal treatment – prayer

**International journal of social psychiatry 55(2), 141-148, 2009**

## **Interactive effects of race and depressive symptoms on calcification in African American and White women**

Lewis, Tené T.; Everson-Rose, Susan A.; Colvin, Alicia; Matthews, Karen; Bromberger, Joyce T.; Sutton-Tyrrell, Kim

### **Abstract**

#### **Objective**

To examine the cross-sectional associations among race, depressive symptoms, and aortic and coronary calcification in a sample of middle-aged women. Depressive symptoms have been associated with atherosclerotic indicators of coronary heart disease (CHD) in white women. Few studies have examined these associations in samples including African American women, or explored whether any observed associations differ by race.

#### **Methods**

Participants were 508 (38% African American, 62% white) women. Aortic and coronary calcification were measured by electron beam tomography and depressive symptoms were assessed with the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D). Multivariable linear and logistic regression models were conducted to test associations.

#### **Results**

In linear regression models adjusted for race, depressive symptoms were associated with a greater amount of aortic calcification ( $\beta = 0.03$ ,  $p = .01$ ), and there was a significant race x depressive symptoms interaction ( $\beta = 0.07$ ,  $p = .006$ ). Findings for depressive symptoms (odds ratio (OR) = 1.03, 95% Confidence Interval (CI) = 1.0–1.06,  $p = .07$ ), and the race x depressive symptoms interaction (OR = 1.1, 95% CI = 1.01–1.18,  $p = .01$ ) were similar in race-adjusted multinomial logistic regression models predicting high levels of aortic calcification. Race-specific models revealed a significant association between depressive symptoms and aortic calcification in African American, but not white women. Additional adjustments for education, study site, and CHD risk factors did not alter these results. Depressive symptoms were not associated with coronary calcification for women of either racial group.

#### **Conclusions**

African American women may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of depressive symptoms on early atherosclerotic disease.

Key Words: depressive symptoms - calcification - atherosclerosis - race - women - coronary heart disease  
**Psychosomatic medicine 71(2), 163-170, 2009**

## **Mental health implications of migration : A review of mental health community studies on Russian-speaking immigrants in Israel**

Mirsky, Julia

### **Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

Since late 1980s, 1,001,726 immigrants arrived in Israel from the former Soviet Union (FSU). A review of community studies on the mental health of these immigrants is presented.

#### **Method**

Israeli studies from the past two decades were reviewed. Presented are findings on the prevalence of psychological distress and psychiatric disorders as well as on a number of risk factors among FSU immigrants.

#### **Results**

Higher psychological distress and psychiatric morbidity were consistently found among FSU immigrants compared to the Israel-born. Social support was identified as a major stress-mitigating factor in migration. Most studies reveal the persistence of psychological distress among FSU immigrants during the first 5 years following migration, with a risk period around the second and third years following migration.

#### **Discussion**

Findings from Israel corroborate some findings on immigrants in other countries but as they are limited to a single immigrant population, replication of these studies is necessary.

**Keywords** migration – psychopathology - risk factors

**Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology 44(3), 179-187, 2009**

## **Mental health problems in separated refugee adolescents**

Derluyn, Ilse; Mels, Cindy; Broekaert, Eric

#### **Abstract**

##### **Purpose**

As migration and separation from parents are widely recognized as important risk factors for the mental health of adolescents, this study aims to investigate mental health problems in refugee adolescents separated from their parents compared to their accompanied peers, all living in Belgium.

##### **Methods**

One thousand two hundred ninety-four adolescents—10% of them refugee adolescents separated from both parents—completed three self-report questionnaires (Hopkins Symptoms Checklist-37A, Stressful Life Events, and Reaction of Adolescents to Traumatic Stress) on the prevalence of traumatic experiences, anxiety, and depression symptoms, externalizing problems, and posttraumatic stress.

##### **Results**

Refugee adolescents separated from both parents experienced the highest number of traumatic events compared to accompanied refugee adolescents. Risk factors influencing the development of serious mental health problems (anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress) are separation from parents, high number of traumatizing events experienced, and gender. Despite the fact that refugee adolescents living only with their mother experienced more traumatizing events compared to adolescents living with both parents, they have fewer mental health problems than refugee adolescents living with their father.

##### **Conclusions**

This study confirms the importance of the availability of parents to adolescents who have to deal with migration experiences, because separated refugee adolescents are at higher risk to experience multiple traumatic experiences and to develop severe mental health problems. Reception and care structures should provide more adequate preventive and curative interventions to these at-risk groups, and government policies should consider these adolescents primarily as “minors” rather than just “refugees.”

**Key words:** Refugee adolescents; Separation from parents; Mental health problems; Trauma

**Journal of adolescent health 44(3), 291-297, 2009**

## **Multidimensional acculturation attitudes and depressive symptoms in Korean Americans**

Kim, Eunjung

#### **Abstract**

This study explored the relationship between multidimensional acculturation attitudes and depressive symptoms in 78 Korean American adults. Approximately 30% of Korean Americans reported scores higher than 16 on the Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale, indicating the presence of elevated depressive symptoms. In multiple regressions controlling for family income, integration was negatively related to depressive symptoms, whereas marginalization was positively linked to depressive symptoms. Findings can be used in developing an intervention program that targets increasing integration and decreasing marginalization and, therefore, decreasing depressive symptoms of Korean Americans.

**Issues in mental health nursing 30(2), 98–103, 2009**

## **Perceived need for mental health care among non-western labour migrants**

Fassaert, Thijs; de Wit, Matty A. S.; Tuinebreijer, Wilco C.; Verhoeff, Arnoud P.; Beekman, Aartjan T. F.; Dekker, Jack

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

There is a supposed higher prevalence of common mental disorders among many migrant groups. At the same time, problems are reported regarding underutilisation of mental health services by migrants. Since perceived need for care is a powerful predictor of actual care utilisation, we aimed to study the hypothesis that, given the same level of mental morbidity, non-Western migrants would perceive less need for mental health care than ethnic Dutch residents. Additionally, we studied the extent to which needs are met in both groups, as well as several possible barriers to care.

#### **Methods**

A cross-sectional study with data from the 2004/2005 Amsterdam Health Monitor. Data were complete from 626 ethnic Dutch and non-Western (Turkish and Moroccan) labour migrants. Respondents participated in a structured interview in their own language, which included the perceived need for care questionnaire (PNCQ) and the composite international diagnostic interview (CIDI) version 2.1 for anxiety and depressive disorders.

#### **Results**

Perceived need was much higher among Turkish migrants. Among Moroccans the perceived need was comparable to ethnic Dutch. Turkish migrants also reported that needs were met less often than ethnic Dutch. Differences were explained by a higher prevalence of common mental disorders and higher symptom levels among Turkish. When differences in mental morbidity were taken into account, Moroccans perceived less need for information, drugs, referral to specialised mental health care, or for counselling. The most important barrier to care in all ethnic groups was the preference to solve the problem on one's own.

#### **Conclusion**

In case of similar mental morbidity, perceived need for care was lower than among ethnic Dutch. The results did not support the hypothesis that in case of similar mental distress, needs of migrants were less often met than needs of ethnic Dutch.

Keywords ethnic groups - health services needs - depressive disorders - anxiety disorders - mental health care

**Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology 44(3), 208-216, 2009**

## **Persistent depressive disorders and social stress in people of Pakistani origin and white Europeans in UK**

Gater, Richard; Tomenson, Barbara; Percival, Carol; Chaudhry, Nasim; Waheed, Waquas; Dunn, Graham; Macfarlane, Gary; Creed, Francis

#### **Abstract**

##### **Introduction**

We compared depression, social stress and treatment in people of Pakistani origin and white Europeans living in an UK city.

##### **Method**

In a population-based two-phase sample of 1,856 adults we interviewed 651 (77%) of eligible participants, using the schedule for clinical assessment in neuropsychiatry and life events and difficulties schedule. We identified 216 people with depressive and 208 with subthreshold disorder; after 6-months we re-interviewed 398 (94% response).

##### **Results**

Depressive disorder was more common in Pakistani women only (31.1% [24.1–38.0] vs. 19.3% [14.1–24.5]) and persisted more often in Pakistanis over 50 years of age (90 vs. 66%,  $P=0.023$ ). New episodes of depressive disorder occurred in 17% of participants who had subthreshold disorder at baseline in each ethnic group. Persistent depression in the Pakistani group was associated with continuing problems of disabling physical illness and close relationships. Treatment was limited and not associated with persistent depression.

##### **Conclusions**

Persistent depressive disorder in older people of Pakistani origin is associated with potentially remediable factors.

Keywords depression - ethnic minority – epidemiology – stress - prospective design

**Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology 44(3), 198-207, 2009**

## **Post-traumatic stress in asylum seekers and refugees from Chechnya, Afghanistan, and West Africa : gender differences in symptomatology and coping**

Renner, Walter; Salem, Ingrid

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

Internationally, a high number of refugees are in need of help as a consequence of post-traumatic stress or acculturation problems.

##### **Aims**

The present study investigated the gender-specific requirements for such interventions taking clinical symptoms as well as coping strategies into account.

#### **Methods**

Five psychometric instruments assessing anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress, somatic symptoms, and social adaptation were administered and semi-structured interviews with  $n = 150$  asylum seekers and refugees from Chechnya, Afghanistan, and West Africa were conducted.

#### **Results**

On the level of total test scores, women reported significantly more somatic symptoms than men but there were no further gender differences. On the item level of the questionnaires as well as with respect to the categories obtained from the interview data, marked gender differences were found. Women, as compared to men, reported more somatic symptoms, emotional outbursts, and loss of sexual interest, while men reported detachment. For women, typical coping strategies were concentrating on their children and various indoor activities, while men preferred looking for work and socializing.

#### **Conclusion**

Social psychiatric interventions should take gender-specific symptoms and coping strategies into account. For asylum seekers and refugees, same gender client-therapist dyads and groups are highly recommended.

Key Words asylum seekers - gender differences - post-traumatic stress - refugees

**International journal of social psychiatry 55(2), 99-108, 2009**

## **Prevalence and correlates of lifetime disordered gambling in Cambodian refugees residing in Long Beach, CA**

Marshall, Grant N.; Elliott, Marc N.; Schell, Terry L.

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

Research has suggested that disordered gambling is endemic to Cambodian refugees. Whereas earlier study of the prevalence and correlates of disordered gambling has relied on convenience sampling, this investigation used a subset of a sample representative of the largest Cambodian refugee community in the US.

##### **Methods**

Face-to-face interviews assessing gambling disorder were conducted with a subsample of persons ( $N=127$ ) participating in a broader study of the mental health of this community.

##### **Results**

13.9% of participants met screening criteria for lifetime disordered gambling, in contrast to previous research suggesting that prevalence rates may exceed 70%. After adjusting for a range of covariates, breadth of trauma exposure and marital status emerged as significant predictors of disordered gambling.

##### **Discussion**

Given the myriad mental health challenges facing the Cambodian refugee community, these data indicate that scarce prevention and treatment resources may be more productively channeled toward addressing other mental health and social service needs.

Keywords Refugees - Mental health - Disordered gambling - Trauma exposure

**Journal of immigrant and minority health 11(1), 35-40, 2009**

## **Psychological distress, depression and generalised anxiety in Turkish and Moroccan immigrants in Belgium : a general population study**

Levecque, Katia; Lodewyckx, Ina; Bracke, Piet

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

This study assesses the prevalence of and risk and protective factors for common mental health complaints in a general population sample of Turkish and Moroccan immigrants living in Belgium. Focus is on between- and within-group variation.

##### **Methods**

The study is based on pooled data from the Belgian Health Interview Surveys 2001 and 2004 and focuses on the Turkish and Moroccan immigrant population aged 18–65 ( $N=147$  Turks,  $N=359$  Moroccans). Mental health status is assessed with the General Health Questionnaire—12 and the Symptom Checklist 90-R subscales for depression and generalised anxiety. Risk and protective factors considered are gender, age, household type, labor market position, educational level, household income, homeownership, being foreign- or native born and social support.

##### **Results**

Between-group variance was not significant. Within-group analysis showed significant effects of gender and social support. Although not significant, the results suggested positive associations between social adversity

and mood status. In addition, there was a tendency for higher risks for psychological distress, depression and generalised anxiety in foreign-born as compared to Belgian-born Turkish and Moroccan immigrants.

**Keywords** depression – anxiety - community sample - risk factors - immigrants

**Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology 44(3), 188-197, 2009**

## **Psychotropic medication nonadherence among United States Latinos : a comprehensive literature review**

Lanouette, Nicole M.; Folsom, David P.; Sciolla, Andres; Jeste, Dilip V.

### **Abstract**

#### **Objective**

Psychotropic medication nonadherence is a major public health problem, but few studies have focused on Latinos. The authors systematically reviewed the literature on rates of and factors influencing antipsychotic, antidepressant, and mood stabilizer nonadherence among U.S. Latinos.

#### **Methods**

MEDLINE and PsycINFO were searched by using the keywords adherence, compliance, Latino, Hispanic, psychotropic, and related terms; bibliographies from relevant reviews and studies were also searched. Twenty-one studies met inclusion criteria: published since 1980 in English or Spanish and measured psychotropic medication nonadherence rates among U.S. Latino adults. Information was extracted about study design and objective, location, population, medication type, participant demographic characteristics, adherence measures, adherence rates, and factors related to adherence.

#### **Results**

In the 17 studies that included Latinos and other minority groups, mean nonadherence rates were 41%, 31%, and 43%, respectively, among Latinos, Euro-Americans, and African Americans, with an overall effect size of .64 between Latinos and Euro-Americans. In the four studies that included only Latinos, the mean nonadherence rate was 44%. Ten of 16 studies found that Latinos had significantly lower adherence rates than Euro-Americans. Risk factors for nonadherence included being a monolingual Spanish speaker, lacking health insurance, experiencing access barriers to high-quality care, and having lower socioeconomic status. Protective factors included family support and psychotherapy.

#### **Conclusion**

Rates of nonadherence to psychotropic medications were found to be higher for Latinos than for Euro-Americans. Further investigation is needed to understand the potentially modifiable individual and society-level mechanisms of this discrepancy. Clinical and research interventions to improve adherence should be culturally appropriate and incorporate identified factors.

**Psychiatric services 60(2), 157-174, 2009**

## **Racial differences in visit duration of outpatient psychiatric visits**

Olfson, Mark; Cherry, Donald K.; Lewis-Fernández, Roberto

### **Abstract**

#### **Context**

Substantial racial disparities exist in the delivery of some health care services. Whether racial disparities exist in the duration of office visits to psychiatrists is not known.

#### **Objective**

To compare the duration of visits to office-based psychiatrists by white and African American patients.

#### **Design, setting, and participants**

Analysis of a nationally representative sample of visits to office-based psychiatrists between 2001 and 2006. Visits were grouped by patient race as non-Hispanic African American (n=504) or non-Hispanic white (n=7094).

#### **Main outcome measure**

Duration of face-to-face contact between patient and psychiatrist.

#### **Results**

Unadjusted mean duration of psychiatric outpatient visits by African Americans (mean duration, 28.3 minutes) were 4.4 minutes shorter than visits by whites (32.7 minutes) ( $P=02$ ), although the difference narrowed (3.5 minutes;  $P=07$ ) following adjustment for potentially confounding patient, psychiatrist, and practice characteristics. A gap was evident in 2001-2003 (7.4 minutes;  $P<001$ ) but negligible in 2004-2006 (0.1 minute;  $P=94$ ). In stratified regressions that combined time periods and controlled for several relevant characteristics, significant racial differences in visit duration were observed among visits with the following characteristics: adjustment disorder diagnosis (10.0 minutes;  $P<001$ ), female patient sex (5.4 minutes;  $P=.008$ ), depressive disorder diagnosis (5.2 minutes;  $P=.04$ ), solo practice (5.2 minutes;  $P=.04$ ), psychotherapy provision (5.1 minutes;  $P=.01$ ), practices with high patient volume (5.0 minutes;  $P=.03$ ), Medicare payment (3.5 minutes;  $P=.02$ ), and absence of psychiatric comorbidity (3.3 minutes;  $P=.04$ ).

#### **Conclusions**

In recent years, progress has been made in closing a racial gap in the length of psychiatric office-based outpatient visits by African American vs white patients. Against a backdrop of persisting racial disparities in other areas of mental health care, ongoing attention to reducing disparities will be necessary to sustain and extend these gains.

**Archives of general psychiatry 66(2), 214-221, 2009**

## **Racial / ethnic disparities in the identification of children with autism spectrum disorders**

Mandell, David S.; Wiggins, Lisa D.; Carpenter, Laura Arnstein; Daniels, Julie; DiGiuseppi, Carolyn; Durkin, Maureen S.; Giarelli, Ellen; Morrier, Michael J.; Nicholas, Joyce S.; Pinto-Martin, Jennifer A.; Shattuck, Paul T.; Thomas, Kathleen C.; Yeargin-Allsopp, Marshaly; Kirby, Russell S.

### **Abstract**

#### **Objectives**

We sought to examine racial and ethnic disparities in the recognition of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

#### **Methods**

Within a multisite network, 2568 children aged 8 years were identified as meeting surveillance criteria for ASD through abstraction of evaluation records from multiple sources. Through logistic regression with random effects for site, we estimated the association between race/ethnicity and documented ASD, adjusting for gender, IQ, birthweight, and maternal education.

#### **Results**

Fifty-eight percent of children had a documented autism spectrum disorder. In adjusted analyses, children who were Black (odds ratio [OR] = 0.79; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.64, 0.96), Hispanic (OR = 0.76; CI = 0.56, 0.99), or of other race/ethnicity (OR = 0.65; CI = 0.43, 0.97) were less likely than were White children to have a documented ASD. This disparity persisted for Black children, regardless of IQ, and was concentrated for children of other ethnicities when IQ was lower than 70.

#### **Conclusions**

Significant racial/ethnic disparities exist in the recognition of ASD. For some children in some racial/ethnic groups, the presence of intellectual disability may affect professionals' further assessment of developmental delay. Our findings suggest the need for continued professional education related to the heterogeneity of the presentation of ASD.

**American journal of public health 99(3), 493-498, 2009**

## **Randomized controlled trial of culturally relevant, brief interpersonal psychotherapy for perinatal depression**

Grote, Nancy K.; Swartz, Holly A.; Geibel, Sharon L.; Zuckoff, Allan; Houck, Patricia R.; Frank, Ellen

### **Abstract**

#### **Objectives**

Depression during pregnancy is one of the strongest predictors of postpartum depression, which, in turn, has deleterious, lasting effects on infant and child well-being and on the mother's and father's mental health. The primary question guiding this randomized controlled trial was, Does culturally relevant, enhanced brief interpersonal psychotherapy (IPT-B) confer greater advantages to low-income, pregnant women than those that accrue from enhanced usual care in treating depression in this population? Enhanced IPT-B is a multicomponent model of care designed to treat antenatal depression and consists of an engagement session, followed by eight acute IPT-B sessions before the birth and maintenance IPT up to six months postpartum. IPT-B was specifically enhanced to make it culturally relevant to socioeconomically disadvantaged women.

#### **Methods**

Fifty-three non-treatment-seeking, pregnant African-American and white patients receiving prenatal services in a large, urban obstetrics and gynecology clinic and meeting criteria for depression on the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (score >12 on a scale of 0 to 30) were randomly assigned to receive either enhanced IPT-B (N=25) or enhanced usual care (N=28), both of which were delivered in the clinic. Participants were assessed before and after treatment on depression diagnoses, depressive symptoms, and social functioning.

#### **Results**

Intent-to-treat analyses showed that participants in enhanced IPT-B, compared with those in enhanced usual care, displayed significant reductions in depression diagnoses and depressive symptoms before childbirth (three months postbaseline) and at six months postpartum and showed significant improvements in social functioning at six months postpartum.

#### **Conclusions**

Findings suggest that enhanced IPT-B ameliorates depression during pregnancy and prevents depressive relapse and improves social functioning up to six months postpartum.

Psychiatric services 60(3), 313-323, 2009

## Range of symptoms in refugees of war : the New Mexico Refugee Symptom Checklist-121

Hollifield, Michael; Warner, Teddy D.; Krakow, Barry; Jenkins, Janis; Westermeyer, Joseph

### Abstract

The range of symptoms experienced by refugees of war has not been empirically assessed. The New Mexico Refugee Symptom Checklist-121 (NMRSCCL-121) was developed utilizing established guidelines and evaluated for its psychometric properties. Community-dwelling Kurdish and Vietnamese refugees reported 48 (SD = 31) persistent and bothersome somatic and psychological symptoms on the NMRSCCL-121. Internal consistency and test-retest reliability for the total scale and for most subscales were acceptable, and construct and concurrent validity for the NMRSCCL-121 data was shown. There were modest ethnic group differences on symptom severity and psychometric properties of NMRSCCL-121 subscales. The NMRSCCL-121 produces reliable and valid assessments of a wide range of symptoms in 2 broad community samples of displaced adult refugees.

Journal of nervous and mental disease 197(2), 117-125, 2009

## Validation of the Finnish version of the SCOFF questionnaire among young adults aged 20 to 35 years

Lahteenmaki, Sini; Aalto-Setälä, Terhi; Suokas, Jaana T.; Saarni, Suoma E.; Perala, Jonna; Saarni, Samuli I.; Aro, Hillevi; Lonnqvist, Jouko; Suvisaari, Jaana M.

### Abstract

#### Background

We tested the validity of the SCOFF, a five-question screening instrument for eating disorders, in a general population sample.

#### Methods

A random sample of 1863 Finnish young adults was approached with a questionnaire that contained several screens for mental health interview, including the SCOFF. The questionnaire was returned by 1316 persons. All screen positives and a random sample of screen negatives were invited to SCID interview. Altogether 541 subjects participated in the SCID interview and had filled in the SCOFF questionnaire. We investigated the validity of the SCOFF in detecting current eating disorders by calculating sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values (PPV and NPV) for different cut-off scores. We also performed a ROC analysis based on these 541 persons, of whom nine had current eating disorder.

#### Results

The threshold of two positive answers presented the best ability to detect eating disorders, with a sensitivity of 77.8%, a specificity of 87.6%, a PPV of 9.7%, and a NPV of 99.6%. None of the subjects with current eating disorder scored zero points in the SCOFF.

#### Conclusions

Due to its low PPV, there are limitations in using the SCOFF as a screening instrument in unselected population samples. However, it might be used for ruling out the possibility of eating disorders.

BMC Psychiatry 9(5), 22 pp, 2009

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## NYHEDSBREVE

### World healer

The Newsletter of the WPA - Transcultural Psychiatry Section, 3(6), 2008

Abstracts from the Symposium on immigration and acculturative stress in an era of fear of terrorism, Prague, 19. – 25. september 2008

### Immigration / terrorism

- **Learning to breathe free; Immigration to the USA since 9/11** / Ronald Wintrob
- **Era of terrorism: ethical dilemmas and educational needs** / Marianne Kastrup
- **A light at the end of the tunnel; immigration to Germany before and after 9/11** / Wielant Machleidt
- **Immigration and acculturation in the Netherlands, in the light of terrorism** / Hans Rohlof

- **Impact of the war on recently arrived Iraqi refugees to Sweden : clinical observations** / Riyadh Al-Baldawi
- **Impact of the global climate of fear on the mental health of newcomers to Canada** / Laurence Kirmayer
- **Psychological consequences of the fear of terrorist attacks** / Joseba Achotegui
- **Islamophobia and the mental health of Muslim migrants in the UK post 9/11** / Simon Dein
- **Immigration in France: myths and reality** / Rachid Bennegadi
- **Culture, politics, and social change affecting migrant mental health in Switzerland** / Mitchell G. Weiss

### **Intermarriage**

- **Toward multiculturalism : inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriage in the USA** / Ronald Wintrob
- **Inter-cultural or interracial relationships : beginning to understand the joys and challenges for families, society and mental health care** / Kamaldeep Bhui
- **Psychiatric problems in descendants of different ethnic backgrounds** / Marianne Kastrup
- **Inter-ethnic marriage in the Netherlands: facts and clinical implications** / Hans Rohlof
- **Experiences as a consultant in intermarriage workshops in Vancouver, Canada** / Fumitaka Noda

### **Jewish culture**

- **Influence of Jewish culture on psychiatry, psychoanalysis and cultural psychiatry** / Micol Ascoli
- **Sigmund Freud's Jewish life and the Jewish roots of psychoanalysis** / Micol Ascoli
- **Mystical roots of psychoanalysis** / Simon Dein
- **Influence of Jewish culture on cultural psychiatry** / Ronald Wintrob
- **A 30 year follow-up : the psycho-socio-cultural integration of an ethnic subgroup in Austria** / Alexander Friedmann

### **Transcultural psychiatry in Europe**

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  - **Avoiding the stigmatization of the patient or the therapist: the clinical medical anthropology approach** / Rachid Bennegadi
  - **Moroccan women in pPsychotherapy** / Hans Rohlof
  - **Migratory stress and grief assessment scale** / Joseba Achotegui
- Integration and acculturation in the context of migration related stress / Riyadh Al Baldawi

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