Issues of Diversity in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

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Background

• APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct
  • Principle E: Respect for People’s Rights and Dignity

• Guidelines on Multicultural Education, training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists
  • Guideline #5

• Working Group approach to Diversity
Race and Ethnicity

• Knowledge/information
• Mistrust
• Communication
• Religion/spirituality
• Cultural Values
Gender

• Care recipient demographics and experiences
• Impact of traditional gender roles on behavior
• Care partner experiences
LGBTQ

- Access to palliative and end-of-life care
- Historical discrimination in health care
- Religion/spirituality
- Identifying and including partner and family
Disability

• Social determinants of the disability experience
• Health care disparities
• Complex lifetime systems of care/support poorly replicated by admission to skilled care at the end of life
• Treatment preferences
• Health care providers’ assumptions may not match their patients’ views
Age

- Children/Adolescents
- Adults
- Care partners across the lifespan
Diversity and Assisted Dying

- Racial/ethnic differences in attitudes towards Aid in Dying
- Concerns of disability rights advocates
- Gender
Implications of Psychology Practice

• Knowledge

• Support quality communication with family that is consistent with cultural preferences

• Develop awareness of end-of-life views of diverse cultural communities

• Attend to intersecting identities at the individual level of care

• Support culturally sensitive alternatives to traditional palliative and end-of-life care

• Advocate for changes in organizational, disciplinary, and social policies to promote equitable access to desired end-of-life care
Resources

Publications


Resources

Websites

• Office of Minority Health, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/

• The Cross Cultural Health Care Program: http://xculture.org/

• Diversity Rx: http://www.diversityrx.org/topic-areas/culturally-competent-care

• “End of Life Decisions” site of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging: http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resources.cfm?s=7

• “Palliative Care Fast Facts and Concepts” fact sheet site of the Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin: https://www.mypcnow.org/fast-facts

Examples of fact sheets related to diversity:

• #78 - Cultural Aspects of Pain
• #138 - Peds Grief and Development
• #204 - African American End of Life Issues
• #216 - Asking About Cultural Beliefs
• #275 - LGBT Issues in Palliative Care