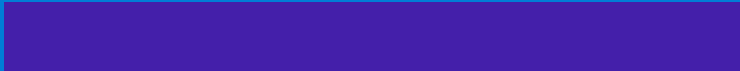


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Cultural Diversity



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Why is it important?

- Accreditation Standards
- WV Licensing Standards
- Part of Youth's Rights

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Uniqueness of Youth

- Growth/development follow general patterns but occurs differently for each person.
- People have different beliefs/practices according to their cultural background.
- All individuals have different needs although we are similar in many ways.

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Cultural Competencies

- Tools for learning more about how to best meet each youth's unique needs.
- Know your own culture - views about illness, certain "remedies", value certain communication styles, religious beliefs
- Know culture of U.S. health care - values & practices not always shared by youth (taking medication, keeping appointments)

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Learn About Youth's Views on Health

- Key step in providing effective care - include them in care when possible.
- Maintaining health - special clothes or objects, activities, foods to avoid, religions activities
- Cause of youth's condition - physical, supernatural, or other causes

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Youth's Views of Health, cont.

- Treatment - may seek more than one treatment or expect a certain treatment
- Using medication - learn youth's views on medication assures proper compliance
- Ask questions related to these issues.

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Understand Relationships

- Understand role others play in youth's care & involve them whenever possible.
- Family members - definition of family
- Community members & groups - support network
- Healers - many cultural groups have their own healers

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Awareness of Language & Communication Issues

- Know what language the Youth uses
- Present information in various ways & check for understanding
- Know about communication styles - cues, silence, practices among genders
- Ask questions more than one way
- Ask about ways of showing respect

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Factors That May Affect Youth's Care Needs

- Food preferences
- Religious beliefs and practices
- Views about birth and death
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Presence of disability
- Socioeconomic status