THE ROLE OF RACE AND CULTURE IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

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GOAL OF PRESENTATION

- To provide a theoretical framework that will increase your understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing drug use and violence in the form of child abuse and neglect in communities of color.

- To provide a conceptual model that may be useful in guiding treatment plans and interventions for substance use and violence.
CENTRAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to be a person of color in the U.S.?

- How do the experiences of people of color differ from the experiences of other groups in the U.S.?

- How do these experiences shape the development of people color and influence their risk for drug use and/or violence in the form of child abuse and neglect?
AREAS INFLUENCING RISK OF DRUG USE AND VIOLENCE

- PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

- PHYSIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

- SOCIAL FUNCTIONING
LEVELS OF PERSONAL IDENTITY

- Human Identity
- Unique Identity
- Group Identity

Integrated Individual Identity
THE SOCIAL HIERARCHY AND RISK FOR SUBSTANCE USE AND VIOLENCE
SOCIAL HIERARCHY AND RISK

- YOUR PLACE IN SOCIETY AFFECTS YOUR RISK OF DRUG USE AND VIOLENCE
SOCIAL HIERARCHY AND RISK

WHAT DETERMINES YOUR POSITION IN THE LARGER SOCIETY?

- RACE/ETHNICITY
- GENDER
SYSTEMS OF RACISM AND SEXISM

CREATE DOMINANT AND SECONDARY SOCIAL GROUPS THAT DIFFER IN POWER AND ACCESS
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

RESULTS IN POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INCREASED RISK FOR SUBSTANCE USE AND VIOLENCE
SECONDARY SOCIAL GROUPS IN THE U.S.

PEOPLE OF COLOR

WOMEN OF COLOR
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

ITS IMPACT ON RISK OF SUBSTANCE USE AND VIOLENCE
SECONDARY SOCİAL STATUS

RACE IS A SOCIALLY DEFINED CONSTRUCT

DISCRIMINATION HAS BEEN A DEFINING VARIABLE IN THE LIFE EXPERIENCE OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE U.S.
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

THE EFFECTS OF GENERATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION ARE PASSED ON THROUGH INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF TRAUMA
HISTORICAL
TRAUMA AND LOSS

LESSONS OF SURVIVAL ARE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT
RACE/ETHNICITY AND SES

ARE NEITHER EQUIVALENT NOR INTERCHANGEABLE
IMPACT OF SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

PSYCHOLOGICAL DYSFUNCTION AND DISTRESS ARE RISK FACTORS FOR DRUG USE AND VIOLENCE
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

POWERLESSNESS
ALIENATION
HOPELESSNESS
ANGER
DEPRESSION
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

- Exposure to discrimination can be traumatic.
- Psychological dysfunction is related to discrimination.
- Psychological dysfunction in response to discrimination is an adaptive response to a dysfunctional social order.
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

- DEHUMANIZES INDIVIDUALS AND DISEMPOWERS THEM
SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

- SILENCING
- VIOLENCE
- INTERNALIZED OPPRESSION
WOMEN OF COLOR

MULTIPLE JEOPARDIES

- Power differences
- Gender roles and expectations
- Fear of violence
WOMEN OF COLOR

- IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO ARE MORE ACCULTURATED ARE AT HIGHER RISK FOR DRUG USE AND OTHER POOR OUTCOMES
IMPACT OF SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS ON HEALTH AND PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOR

- SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS IMPACTS YOUR MOTIVATION TO ENGAGE IN HEALTHY BEHAVIORS AND TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN FROM HARM
PREREQUISITE FOR HEALTHY BEHAVIORS AND FOR PROTECTING SELF AND FAMILY

- PERCEPTIONS OF CONTROL OVER LIFE OUTCOMES

- FEELINGS OF CONTROL INCREASE MOTIVATION TO PROTECT ONESELF AND OTHERS
IMPACT OF SECONDARY SOCIA L STATUS ON PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES

- EXPOSURE TO DISCRIMINATION IN MEMBERS OF SECONDARY SOCIAL GROUPS RESULTS IN HEIGHTENED PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES

- WOMEN REPORT MORE DISTRESS
PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO DISCRIMINATION

- MICROAGRESSIONS MAY RESULT IN A CHRONIC STATE OF ANXIETY AND FEELINGS OF POWERLESSNESS

- DRUG USE INCREASES TO REGULATE MOOD

- FEELINGS OF POWERLESSNESS LEAD TO VIOLENCE
SPECIFIC IMPACT OF SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS ON DRUG USE

- Animal studies show that secondary social status is associated with changes in dopamine and greater drug use.

- Control of the environment and resources alters dopamine systems.

- Are dopamine levels related to violence?
MODEL OF THE EFFECTS OF SECONDARY SOCIAL STATUS

Secondary status

Exposure to discrimination

Psychological distress

Physiological reactions

Need for mood regulation

Increased risk for drug use and violence
IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT

- RESILIENCY IN MEMBERS OF SECONDARY SOCIAL GROUPS MAY BE TIED TO INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL ACTION

- TREATMENT MUST EVALUATE
  - Culture of origin
  - Dominant culture
  - Culture of discrimination