Diagnosis of Depression Among Hispanic Individuals--Appropriate Methods and Measures

Cassie DeVore
Illinois Wesleyan University

Carolyn Nadeau, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Part of the Other Languages, Societies, and Cultures Commons

DeVore, Cassie and Nadeau, Faculty Advisor, Carolyn, "Diagnosis of Depression Among Hispanic Individuals--Appropriate Methods and Measures" (2010). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 7.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2010/posters2/7

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
DIAGNOSIS OF DEPRESSION AMONG HISPANIC INDIVIDUALS - APPROPRIATE METHODS AND MEASURES

Cassie DeVore and Carolyn Nadeau*
Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

The diagnosis of mental illnesses in Hispanic individuals has received much criticism within the past decade. The amount of Hispanics that have immigrated to the United States has been on the rise, and this immigration to the United States has involved varying degrees of acculturation. Although newly immigrated Hispanics face a whole new set of challenges compared to Hispanics who have lived in the United States for many years, the obvious language barriers, poor socioeconomic statuses, and the ability to fit in and understand the American culture are all issues that might affect ones mental state. Many individuals, therefore, suffer from this transition into a new culture or suffer from a lack of balance between their own culture and the new culture. These circumstances might, then, correlate with the frequency of mental illness in Hispanics. Depression, in particular, is one serious mental illness that appears in the Hispanic population. Unfortunately, many Hispanics do not receive proper diagnosis for their mental illness and thus do not receive the appropriate treatment. Research has investigated the different measures and methods used to diagnose depression in Hispanics, but these systems have not proven to be valid or reliable. This situation needs to be further researched and changes regarding the diagnosis of depression in Hispanics needs to be addressed.