

## Data Trends

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**From:** Data Trends  
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This News Brief alerts you to three resources on ethnically and culturally diverse populations:

1) Lin, S., & Kelsey, J. L. (2000). Use of race and ethnicity in epidemiologic research: Concepts, methodological issues, and suggestions for research. "Epidemiologic Reviews," 22(2), 187-202.

This article discusses such issues as mixed race, multi-ethnicity, assimilation, ancestry, race as a perceived construct, ethnicity as a fluid construct, and the epidemiological importance of these variables in public health research. Although the authors write from the standpoint of the field of physical health, they provide insights into ethnic and cultural research questions that are applicable to researchers in children's mental health services. From their conclusion: "Because race/ethnicity as currently measured has many limitations, epidemiologists need to incorporate more specific biologic, cultural, and social factors to capture the many dimensions of race and ethnicity....Research that comprehensively captures racial and ethnic attributes helps to uncover etiologic factors for disease, is useful in clinical settings, and benefits policy makers and prevention scientists in forming more targeted prevention strategies."

2) Shenkman, E., Vogel, B., Brooks, R., Wegner, D. H., & Naff, R. (Winter 2001). Race and ethnicity and the identification of special needs children. "Health Care Financing Review," 23(2).  
Abstract: Increasingly, Medicaid and Title XXI Programs are using survey-based approaches to identify children with special health care needs (CSHCN) for quality assurance monitoring and program referrals. However, little work has been done examining how well instruments, like the Questionnaire for Identifying Children with Chronic Conditions and the CSHCN Screener, identify CSHCN among black and Hispanic families. Differences in item interpretation and in response styles could influence the identification of CSHCN from these groups. Our results suggest that children who are black or Hispanic with special health care needs may be under-identified relative to white or non-Hispanic children using currently available survey tools.

This article is on-line, at: <http://www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/Shenkman.pdf>

3) The DHHS's revised "Providers guide to quality and culture" has added a new section on the health care needs of Arab Americans and Muslims, to help practitioners provide culturally sensitive care. Information on other ethnic groups is also available at this website:  
<http://erc.msh.org/mainpage.cfm?file=5.0.htm&module=provider&language=English>

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