

The Impact of Culturally Relevant Programs

This is a snapshot of the research articles summarized in the [Annotated Bibliography: The Impact of Culturally Relevant Programs](#). The annotated bibliography provides more details on scope, search methodology, and individual articles.

- **Culturally relevant interventions address the specific contexts in which victims experience abuse**, including expected gender and age-related roles, cultural taboos about discussing abuse, sex, and mainstream misunderstandings about a victim's culture or religion. By being sensitive to the needs of historically marginalized populations, victim services can demonstrate the flexibility needed to meet the dynamic needs of all survivors in their community. (Fontes & Plummer 2010; Horsford et al. 2010; O'Brian & Macy 2016; Syed 2017; Wennerstrom et al. 2018)
- **Positive first impressions about a program can be critical for victims' continued engagement.** Emphasizing varied paths to recovery, like traditional healers, spiritual practices, and discussing cultural values and using culturally relevant metaphors, may create a more welcoming atmosphere for victims. Model programs combine embracing diverse marginalized identities with language accessibility, survivor-centered advocacy, and evidence-informed practices. (Dabby 2017; Melogoza 2017; Serrata et al. 2019; Whitaker et al. 2007)
- **Culturally specific and trauma-informed practices lead to positive outcomes**, including increased self-efficacy and empowerment, reconnection with cultural communities, and emotional well-being for abuse survivors. One child abuse intervention with a stronger emphasis on cultural competency resulted in higher client satisfaction, more effective goal accomplishment, and increased rates of client engagement compared to similar home-based interventions. (Damashek et al 2011; Fox et al 2018; Gillum 2009; O'Brian and Macy 2016; Serrata et al. 2019; White et al. 2019; Yick 2008)
- **Community-based participatory research elevates community members and researchers as equal partners** in understanding internal, institutional, and systemic barriers to services for survivors. Culturally sensitive research strategies emphasize cross-learning and anti-colonial data gathering methods like collective drawings and storytelling. (Bent-Goodley 2007; Chen & Scheib 2018; Ragavan et al. 2018)
- **Victims' voices are vital to develop and evaluate culturally competent programs.** Some communities may distrust formal victim services based on past experiences with governmental, criminal justice, and medical systems. Encouraging victims' input increases their sense of empowerment, emphasizes their unique strengths, and generates creative, targeted, grassroots solutions. (Hernandez-Martinez et al 2018; Horsford et al 2011; Ragavan et al. 2018; Tillman et al. 2010; White et al. 2019)

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