

INTERSECTIONALITY BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND MENTAL HEALTH

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WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

Our emotional, psychological, and social well-being, also known as mental health, significantly impacts how we think, feel, and behave. It shapes our ability to cope with stress, build relationships, and make choices. Throughout our lives, from childhood to adulthood, mental health plays a vital role.



GENDER, SEXUALITY AND TRAUMA

- **Heterosexual Women:** Half (53.3% or 62.3 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.
- **Bisexual Women:** 4 in 5 (79.3% or 3.7 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.
- **Lesbian Women:** Approximately 3 in 5 (59.9% or 1.3 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.
- **Heterosexual Men:** About 3 in 10 (29.3% or 32.8 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.
- **Bisexual Men:** Over half (56.4% or 1.1 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.
- **Gay Men:** Over half (59.8% or 2.0 million) experienced CSV during their lifetimes.

Source: Chen, J., Khatiwada, S., Chen, M. S., Smith, S. G., Leemis, R. W., Friar, N., Basile, K. C., & Kresnow, M. (2023). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2016/2017: Report on Victimization by Sexual Identity. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/new-nisvs-data-sexual-violence-and-sexual-identity-key-findings-and-prevention>

- **64% of transgender individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives.**
- **Almost half (49.5%) of multiracial women and over 45% of Native American/Alaska Native women were subjected to some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime.**

Source: Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., ... Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control website: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVSStateReportBook.pdf>

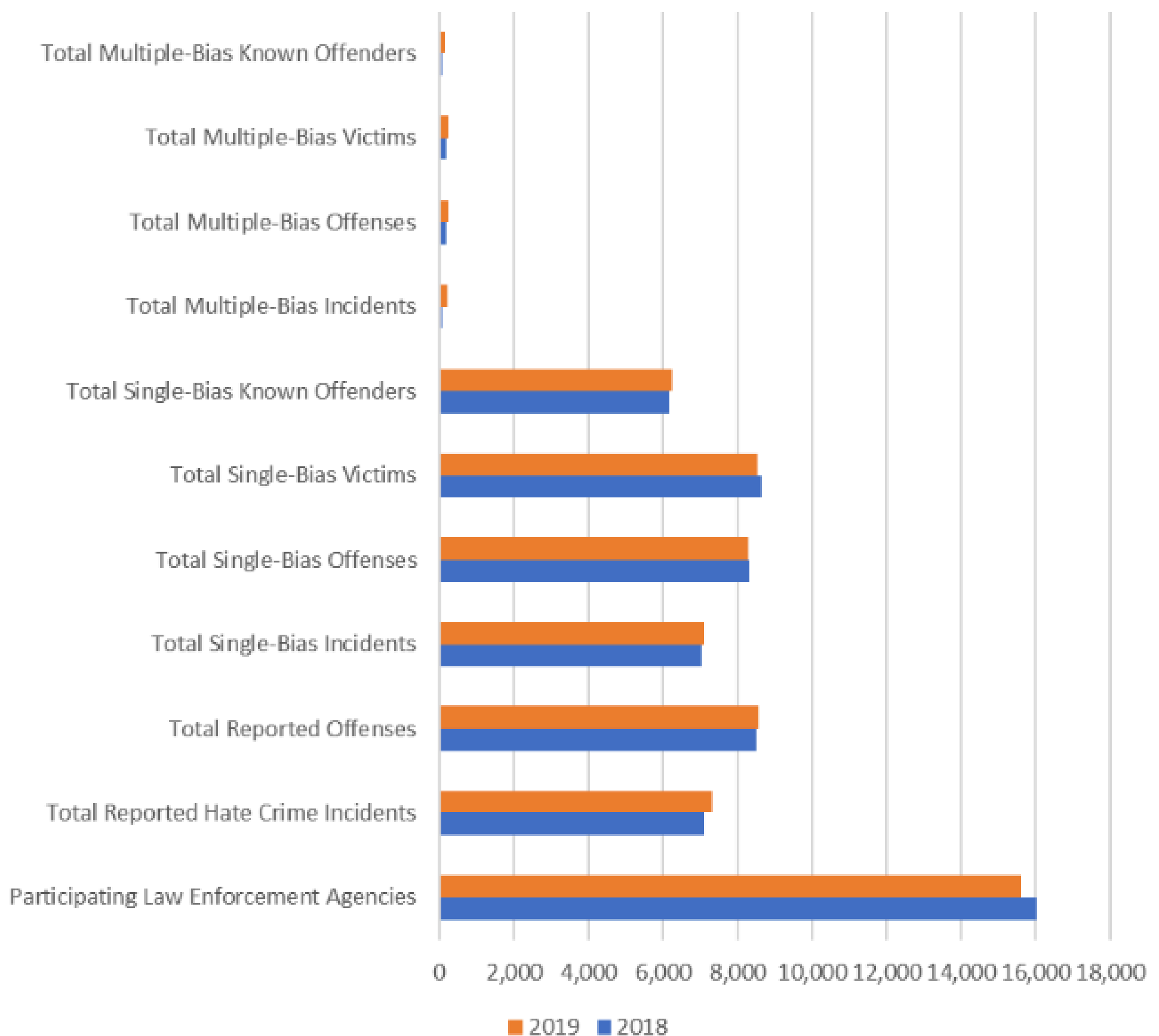
These statistics increase when we look at intersectionality between gender, sexuality, and race!



PREVALENCE OF HATE AND BIAS

- Hate and Bias is prevalent in our society, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program took reports submitted by law enforcement agencies and of these agencies.
- **NOTE THESE ARE THE ONES THAT WERE REPORTED!! A LOT OF HATE CRIMES GO UNREPORTED.**

Comparison of 2018 vs 2019 FBI Hate Crime Statistics



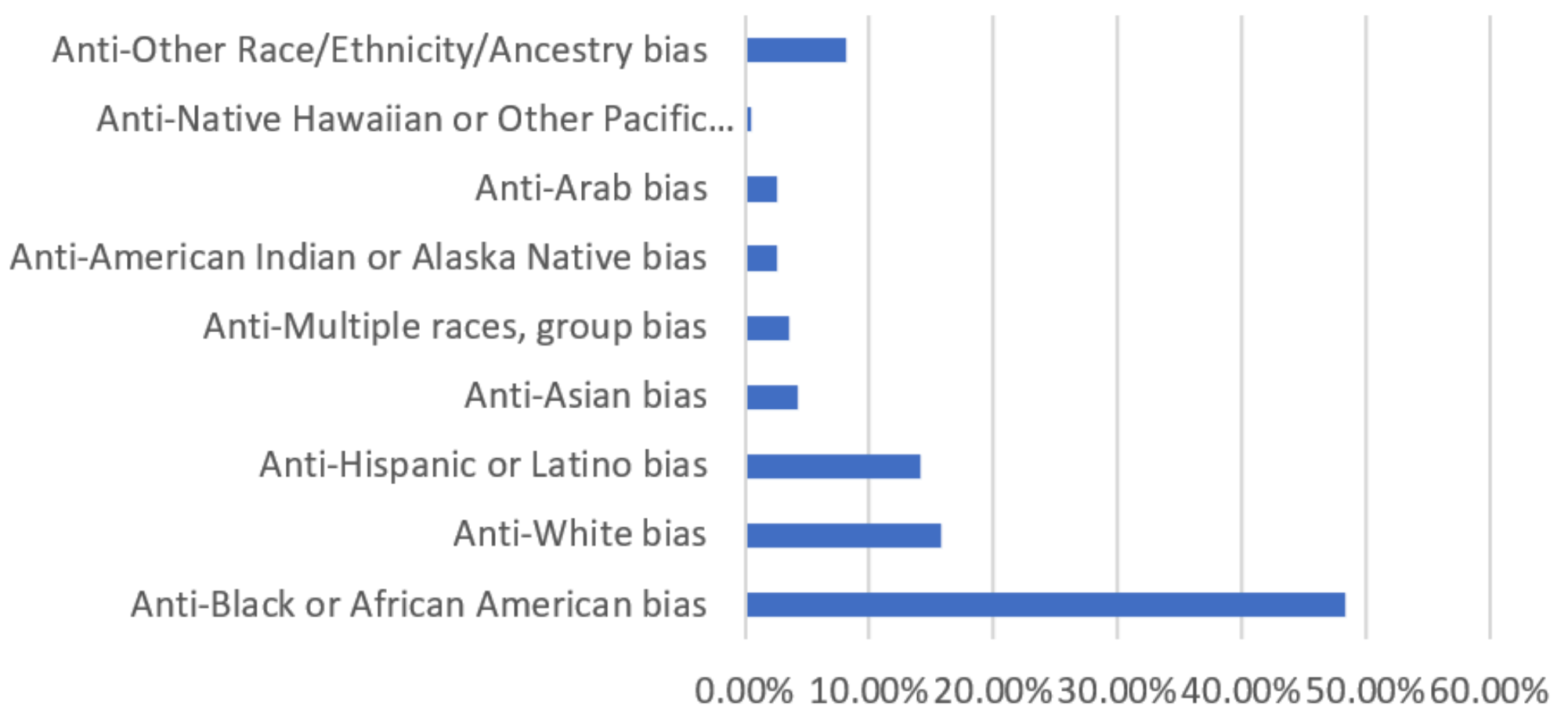
- Even with a decrease in number of participating law enforcement agencies there was an increase in the number of hate crimes.



BREAKDOWN OF HATE AND BIAS INCIDENTS

- 48.4 percent were motivated by anti-Black or African American bias.
- 15.8 percent stemmed from anti-White bias.
- 14.1 percent were classified as anti-Hispanic or Latino bias.
- 4.3 percent resulted from anti-Asian bias.
- 3.6 percent were a result of bias against groups of individuals consisting of more than one race (anti-multiple races, group).
- 2.6 percent were motivated by anti-American Indian or Alaska Native bias.
- 2.6 percent were classified as anti-Arab bias.
- 0.5 percent (25 offenses) were motivated by bias of anti-Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- 8.2 percent were the result of an anti-Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry bias.

Race/ethnicity/ancestry bias from the 2019 FBI Hate Crime Statistics



Citation: FBI Hate Crime Statistics, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime>



GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MENTAL HEALTH

- LGBTQ community faces higher rates of mental health conditions due to prejudice and biases.
- LGBTQ individuals are nearly 3 times more likely to experience conditions like major depression or generalized anxiety disorder.
- Fear of discrimination and stigma related to sexual orientation and gender identity can lead to depression, PTSD, suicidal thoughts, and substance abuse.
- LGBTQ people face both societal bias against mental health and stigma based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Some LGBTQ individuals hide their sexual orientation from mental health professionals for fear of ridicule or rejection, while others conceal their mental health conditions from LGBTQ peers.
- Lack of awareness and discussion about mental health within the LGBTQ community can hinder access to treatment and support.

Source: National Alliance on Mental Illness

<https://www.nami.org/your-journey/identity-and-cultural-dimensions/lgbtq/>

MINORITY STRESS

- Concept stems from several social and psychological theoretical orientations.
- Minority stress theory proposes that sexual minority health disparities can be explained in large part by stressors induced by a hostile, homophobic culture, which often results in a lifetime of harassment, maltreatment, discrimination and victimization and may ultimately impact access to care.

Citation: Dentato, M.P. (2012). The minority stress perspective. Psychology & AIDS Exchange, 37, 12-15. American Psychological Association. Washington, D.C. (Spring Issue).



EXTERNAL RESOURCE

Multiple Minority Stress and LGBT Community Resilience among Sexual Minority Men

Citation: McConnell EA, Janulis P, Phillips G 2nd, Truong R, Birkett M. Multiple Minority Stress and LGBT Community Resilience among Sexual Minority Men. *Psychol Sex Orientat Gend Divers*. 2018 Mar;5(1):1-12. doi: 10.1037/sgd0000265. PMID: 29546228; PMCID: PMC5846479.

You can find this resource by scanning the QR code on the right or by visiting:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5846479/>



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

In healthcare and social services, a trauma-informed approach acknowledges the widespread impact of traumatic experiences. Recognizing that trauma can affect anyone and leave lasting consequences, this approach equips professionals to support individuals, families, and communities. It involves understanding the signs and symptoms of trauma, while creating safe and supportive environments.

Trauma-informed care prioritizes empowerment and building resilience alongside preventing re-traumatization. By fostering collaboration and prioritizing healing throughout the process, this approach aims to address the unique needs of trauma survivors.

EXTERNAL RESOURCE

Trauma-informed care: What it is, and why it's important

Citation: Trauma-informed care: What it is, and why it's important. *Harvard Health Blog*. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/trauma-informed-care-what-it-is-and-why-its-important-2018101613562>.

This resource can be used to identify your implicit biases.

You can find this resource by scanning the QR code on the right or by visiting:

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/trauma-informed-care-what-it-is-and-why-its-important-2018101613562>



MARGINALIZATION AND TRAUMA

Marginalization inflicts trauma upon individuals. Those marginalized not only contend with the everyday challenges encountered by everyone but also grapple with the perilous realities of hate and bias directed at their identity. Whether navigating public spaces or seeking refuge in supposedly safe social or religious settings, they endure a persistent state of vigilance and anxiety, even within spaces intended to provide solace and security.



STIGMA WITH MENTAL HEALTH

- “Mental health stigma occurs when people have negative thoughts and beliefs of those with mental health illnesses or mental health treatment.”
- Often this stigma causes individuals to avoid treatment until the disorder is very advanced and complex to treat.
- “Mental health stigma is particularly important to understand among ethnic minorities because they may display higher levels of stigma toward those with mental illness and psychotherapy than among European Americans.”
- “A qualitative study suggested that African Americans were likely to feel embarrassment related to mental health problems and seeking treatment, stating that mental health stigma was a significant problem in their community. Another qualitative study found similar beliefs about embarrassment and that this embarrassment kept participants from seeking treatment”.

Citation: DeFreitas SC, Crone T, DeLeon M, Ajayi A. Perceived and Personal Mental Health Stigma in Latino and African American College Students. *Front Public Health*. 2018 Feb 26;6:49. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2018.00049. PMID: 29536000; PMCID: PMC5834514.

- Labels associated with mental health conditions often perpetuate harmful stigmas, compounding the challenges already faced by individuals experiencing such issues. These labels can oversimplify complex experiences, reducing individuals to stereotypes and diminishing their humanity. Moreover, they may foster misconceptions and fear, leading to discrimination and social exclusion.
- It's crucial to recognize the harmful impact of these labels and strive to replace them with language that is respectful, empathetic, and destigmatizing. By fostering understanding, compassion, and acceptance, we can create a more supportive and inclusive environment for individuals living with mental health conditions.



Some ways you can Break the Cycle of Oppression and Mental Health Stigma

1. Refrain from using stigmatizing terms such as "crazy," "psychopath," or "attention seeker" when referring to individuals with mental health disorders. For a comprehensive list of such terms, refer to <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1925070/>
2. Advocate for change by educating your friends about the harmful effects of using stigmatizing language and encourage them to stop using such terms.
3. Reflect on your own biases, both conscious and unconscious, and avoid making assumptions about individuals with mental health disorders. Recognize that each person's experience is unique.
4. Take proactive steps to educate yourself about the historical and contemporary issues faced by marginalized communities, and strive to become an ally in the fight against stigma and discrimination.
5. Embrace the idea that it's okay not to be okay. Acknowledge that experiencing mental health challenges is a natural part of the human experience, and seek out resources and support when needed.
6. Practice active listening when friends or family members share their experiences with mental health or marginalization. Avoid rushing to offer solutions and instead provide a supportive space for them to express themselves.

FOR ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES ON COMBATING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.NAMI.ORG/EDUCATION/9-WAYS-TO-FIGHT-MENTAL-HEALTH-STIGMA/](https://www.nami.org/education/9-ways-to-fight-mental-health-stigma/)

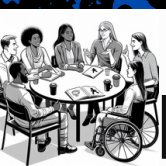




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DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION GLOSSARY

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| ACCESSIBILITY | The process of ensuring that information, environments, and experiences are designed to be usable by individuals of all abilities. Its objective is to facilitate full participation and engagement for everyone, eliminating any barriers that may hinder access or interaction. |
| CULTURE | The collection of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that define a specific group of people, encompassing their knowledge, beliefs, art, laws, customs, and habits. |
| DIVERSITY | Diversity with regard to people refers to a group of individuals with varying characteristics. Diversity encompasses different dimensions, including visible aspects such as race, age, and ethnicity, as well as invisible aspects such as religion, skills, abilities, socio-economic status, and culture. |
| EMPOWERMENT | The journey towards obtaining greater autonomy, control, and influence in one's life and decision-making processes. It involves acquiring the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to autonomously make choices and pursue personal goals. |
| EQUITY | Equity pertains to fairness and justice, recognizing that individuals come from diverse backgrounds with varying needs. It aims to establish a level playing field where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, acknowledging that some may require additional support to achieve true equality of opportunity. |
| INCLUSION | Creating an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued, and supported, regardless of their background or characteristics. It ensures that everyone has the opportunity to participate and contribute fully. |
| IDENTITY | The unique traits and characteristics that define an individual. |
| INTERSECTIONALITY | Intersectionality acknowledges that individuals' lived experiences are molded by the intricate connections between their various social identities, such as race, class, gender, and ability. Visualize these identities as overlapping circles in a Venn diagram; the overlapping regions depict intersectionality. For example, a Black woman confronts unique obstacles due to the compounded effects of racism and sexism. By recognizing and understanding these intersections, we can develop targeted interventions and advance more inclusive initiatives within the realm of social justice. |
| LIBERATION | Breaking free from different limitations. It involves fighting for equal rights and opportunities for a specific group, representing their ongoing struggle for equality against historical oppression. |





DIFFICULT-DISCUSSIONS INC. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION GLOSSARY

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| MARGINALIZATION | Systematic disadvantages experienced by specific groups because of their social identities. It stems from power dynamics within a society, where dominant groups establish and uphold systems that benefit themselves while disadvantaging others. |
| MICROAGGRESSION | Subtle insults, slights, or invalidations directed at individuals or groups due to their marginalized identity. These seemingly small interactions can convey negative messages and have a cumulative impact on the recipient. They are often unconscious or unintentional expressions of prejudice towards marginalized groups, like racial minorities. |
| MISINFORMATION | Inaccurate or misleading information spread unintentionally. Unlike disinformation, which is intentionally deceptive, misinformation is shared without malicious intent. Those spreading misinformation may genuinely believe it to be true. |
| PRIVILEGE | Unearned advantages or benefits that some groups receive based on their social identity, allowing them to live without facing certain disadvantages. |
| SAVIOUR COMPLEX | A psychological tendency where someone feels a strong urge to help others, sometimes to the extent of neglecting their own needs or becoming overly intrusive. Despite appearing positive, it can create issues in relationships and for the person themselves. People with a savior complex seek to fix others' problems and often see themselves as heroes, but this can result in little impact on challenging oppressive systems effectively. |
| IMPLICIT BIAS | The attitudes and stereotypes that impact our judgments and actions without our awareness. These biases are shaped throughout our lives, representing social stereotypes about certain groups that individuals form without conscious realization. |

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