

PSYCHIATRIC NEEDS AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE ON GUAM, USA

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Guam, an American territory with a rich past and distinct cultural heritage, has been historically overlooked and has a strained healthcare system. There have been few attempts to determine the state of psychiatric healthcare delivery and the barriers to optimal care. The showcased study is part of an American Psychiatric Association (APA) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Fellowship to be completed in Winter 2021/Spring 2022. The study aims to better understand the current state of mental health care and awareness on Guam as well as to identify needs, as seen by local mental health providers, to enhance mental health care. This will be done using quantitative survey data from mental health providers and gathering anecdotal data within voluntary focus groups. The poster will feature the results of the exploratory surveys as well as note social barriers to care as gathered by Guamanian community members. While Pacific Islander mental health remains poorly showcased, the intent of this research is not only to highlight the needs of an overlooked community in America but to also provide crucial mental health statistics for Pacific Islander mental health and pave the way for further, locally driven mental health care enhancements.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize and appreciate the distinct cultural heritage of Guam with a population of unique health and psychiatric concerns.
2. Identify the needs of mental health providers on Guam in order to enhance mental healthcare delivery as well as appreciate community perspectives.