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The Role of Stigma and Demographic Characteristics in Clinical Conceptualizations of Psychosis

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Learning Goal:

Understand and consider how stigma and marginalized identity status may influence provider and community member attitudes regarding psychosis.

Abstract Text:

Research suggests that persons with psychosis and schizophrenia diagnoses experience disproportionate access to and benefit less from mental health care, particularly when they are of minority racial/ethnic status and low socioeconomic status (SES). Provider stigma may influence clinical decision-making and indirectly contribute to these health disparities. A total of 250 community members and treatment providers will complete measures of mental illness stigma and their attitudes regarding a hypothetical "patient" presented in vignette format. It is hypothesized that stigmatizing attitudes toward mental illness will negatively influence attitudes about recovery and lead to more coercive treatment decision-making, and this will vary by demographic characteristics of the "patient" (e.g., race, housing status, and justice involvement). Findings will be discussed as related to mental health disparities for individuals with psychosis.

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