Providing Culturally Responsive Care for Immigrants and Refugees: 
The Role of Religion

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30% of Colorado children are born into a family that is:

- A minority group
- A culture different from their health care provider’s culture
- Over 40% of newborns are born into a family from a culture that is different from their health care provider’s culture.
• 33% of Colorado children live in poverty or near poverty.

• 500,000 children live in a family that is subsisting at 250% of the poverty level.

• 40% of newborns are born into a family living in poverty or near poverty.

Overlap between the two groups is 72%.
Another reason...

Colorado children experience health disparities:

Minority Families
- African American
- Latino
- Asian
- Native American

Immigrant Families

Families with Limited English Proficiency

Low income families (disproportionately minorities, immigrants, refugees)
**Immigrant**: A person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence who does not fit the definition of refugee or asylee.

**Refugee**: A person who is outside his/her country or nationality (or in the case of a person having no nationality) is outside ANY country in which he/she has most recently lived.

A refugee is unable or unwilling to return to his/her country of residence because persecution or a well-founded hear of persecution.

- race
- religion
- nationality
- membership particular social group
- political opinion.
**Getting Terminology Straight**

**Asylee**: A person who has received permission to remain in the United States based on a well-founded fear of persecution should they return to their native land

**Health Care Eligibility:**

**Refugees** granted legal resident status in the U.S. are eligible for refugee health services for a period of 8 months from the date they enter the country.
- over-seas pre-departure screenings
- health screenings within 30 days of arrival in the U.S.

**Asylees** may apply to receive refugee cash and medical assistance for up to 8 months beginning on the date that they are granted asylum.
The Triple Threat
to Healthcare Communication

Cultural Competence
72% of population growth in the next 20 years will come from immigrants, or the children of immigrants.

Language Access Services
In 2013, a record 61.8 million U.S. residents spoke a primary language other than English at home.

Health Literacy
The IOM estimates 90 million “average” Americans lack sufficient literacy skills to function in the healthcare system. (IOM, 2004)
Eight Dimensions of Culture
Intercultural Communications

- Individual Vs. Group
- Time Control
- Change
- Destiny
- Self-Sufficiency
- Task Vs. Relationship
- Status
- Language
Individual vs. Group
Eight Dimensions of Culture
Intercultural Communications

Destiny

The Self vs. Higher Power
First Step: Accessing Care
Internet “access” and then what?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FECA BLK LUNG (SSN)</td>
<td>Insured’s Identification Number</td>
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<td>OTHER (ID)</td>
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<td>SEX</td>
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<td>INSURED’S NAME (Last)</td>
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<td>INSURED</td>
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Second Step: Navigating Healthcare System
- Making Initial Appointments
- Understanding phone trees
- Problem referrals to specialists
- Unresponsive staff/language support
- No access to advise lines
- Obtaining personal medical records
- Scheduling required tests
- Tracking what becomes a complex flow of information
Religion and Patient-Provider Interactions

- Gender of provider (esp. Muslim Patients)
- Modesty/nakedness
- Female Circumcision
- Use of Birth Control
- Diet/Fasting
- Surgery
- Organ Donation
Human Organ Trafficking

- Lung: $150,000 – $170,000
- Liver: $150,000
- Pancreas: $98,000 – $130,000
- Cornea: $30,000
- Heart: $130,000 – $160,000
- Kidney: $62,000
Illness caused by outside forces:

• ill will by another
• soul loss
• bewitching by spirits, gods or demons
• punishment by ancestors
Susto or “Fright sickness”

• Must be cured by a curandero. (Ritual cleansing, etc.)

Mal de Ojo or Evil Eye

• Inconsolable crying without clear cause
• fitful sleep
• diarrhea, vomiting, fever
Evil Eye (Mal de Ojo)

Ojo de Venado
### Traditional Remedies and Cures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiar &quot;Remedies&quot; in U.S.</th>
<th>Other Belief Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lots of fluids for cold &amp; flu</td>
<td>• Acupuncture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vitamin C, Zinc, Echinacea</td>
<td>• Coin rubbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chicken Soup</td>
<td>• Moxibustion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OTC Medicines</td>
<td>• Work of spiritual healers/shamans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Immunizations</td>
<td>• Prayer, rituals, spirit cleansings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Doctor prescribed medications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coin Rubbing

Moxibustion

Fire Cupping
Questions, comments...
Thank You!