


## Multicultural and Diversity Issues

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Cultural
- Diversity



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## Race

- Caucasian
- Black
- Eastern Asian
- Aborigine

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## Ethnicity

- Refers to the ethnic group that you are born into.
- Examples, include Northern European, Arabic, eastern Asian, Native American, etc.
- It is possible to belong to more than one ethnic group.
- Term can be confusing (e.g., ethnic foods, ethnic cleansing, etc.)
- US Census Bureau recognizes only Hispanic and Non-Hispanic as ethnic groups.

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## Culture

- The customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a group of people. These groups are often racial, religious, or social group.
- Culture is a learned behavior.
- Ethnic groups can contain a number of cultures (provide examples)
- Cultural tendency. Generalizations made for different cultural groups.

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## Diversity

- A variety of different cultures.
- Often refers to the interaction of two or more cultures or ethnic groups.



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## Why study multicultural issues?

- Chances are very high that you will working with diverse cultures. (e.g., in Wisconsin: literally hundreds of different white, black, Asian-American, Hispanic cultures, etc.)
- As a professional it is important to understand differences between cultures and what ramifications this will have in the way you interact with these diverse cultures.

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## Cultural/Ethnic Diversity in the United States

	1990	2000
• African-American	12%	12%
• Hispanic-American	9%	12%
• Asian-American	3%	4%
• Native American	1%	1%
• White-American	75%	71%

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## Growth of Ethnic Groups in the United States over past 10 years.



- African-American	13%
- Hispanic-American	51%
- Asian-American	51%
- Native American	13%
- White-American	7%

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## Changing Trends

- Hispanic-American's and Asian-Americans are two fastest growing ethnic groups in U.S.
- In California (largest state) and Arizona, White-Americans are now a minority group. Texas (2nd largest state) and New Mexico are expected to follow same trends.
- Number of students who have ESL is increasing.



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## Culture and Communication

- Communication emanates from cultural context, and indeed they are intertwined.
  - That is, they can shape and reinforce each other.
- The speech community is an important concept and involves the collection of individuals who learn, share and use a particular set of linguistic codes which serve to represent the universe of meaning characteristic of that cultural.

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## Culture and Communication (cont.)

- Because of these differences what might be acceptable in one culture may not be generally accepted by another.
  - That is, bad and/or inappropriate communication may be negatively perceived by a person of another culture.
- It is the position of ASHA that no dialectal variety of English is a disorder or a pathological form of speech and/or language.

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## Implications for the Speech-Language Pathologist & Audiologist

- Training
  - Increased training in cultural diversity and implications for SLP and audiologist.
  - Increased importance in learning Spanish as a second language.
- General Interaction
  - Patients, parents, and professionals

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## Implications (continued)

- Assessment
  - Materials should be appropriate and normalized for that culture.
  - Assessment should be conducted in a manner consistent with that culture.
- Treatment
  - Appropriate materials
  - Appropriate communication methods.

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