

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

TREATMENT AND CARE IN ADDICTIONS COUNSELING



**SNEAK
PREVIEW**

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800.200.3908 x501 or info@cognella.com

FIRST EDITION

Edited by **Tiffany Lee, Ph.D.**

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

TREATMENT AND CARE IN ADDICTIONS COUNSELING

First Edition

Edited by Tiffany Lee, Ph.D.
Western Michigan University



Bassim Hamadeh, CEO and Publisher
Michael Simpson, Vice President of Acquisitions
Jamie Giganti, Managing Editor
Jess Busch, Senior Graphic Designer
John Remington, Acquisitions Editor
Brian Fahey, Licensing Specialist
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First published in the United States of America in 2015 by Cognella, Inc.

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-62131-785-2 (pbk) / 978-1-62131-786-9 (br)

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INTRODUCTION

Addiction is an equal-opportunity disease, inflicting both genders and people of any age, race, religion, education level, sexual orientation, and economic status. All people, however, do not experience substance use, misuse, abuse, and dependency in the same way. The etiology differs among and between groups of people, and everyone does not enter treatment for the same reasons. Treatment efficacy can be affected by cultural variables, and these variables must be taken into account by researchers and clinicians, as well as clients and their family members. In other words, aspects of culture and diversity have vast implications for the delivery and success of substance abuse treatment services provided to special populations.

The term “special populations” has been used in the substance abuse field since the 1970s (Hegamin, Anglin, & Casanova, 2002). By definition, a special population is a subgroup that historically has been underrepresented in substance abuse prevention and treatment research (Polinsky, Hser, & Grella, 1998). The term originated in an effort to address the unique needs of underserved populations and provide appropriate and efficient services to these groups.

Special populations include, but are not limited to, the following subgroups:

Racial and Ethnic Populations:

Black/African Americans

Arab Americans

Asian Americans

Latino Americans

Native Americans