

Ethnicity, Race and Health in Multicultural Societies

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Description

- Discusses concepts of race and ethnicity in an integrated way, enabling the reader to build up a solid foundation of knowledge
- Practical applications of each concept are illustrated with examples, allowing the reader to learn about how basic ideas are used in practice
- The basic ideas of ethnicity and race are applied internationally
- Each chapter contains a contents list, educational objectives, and a summary, to aid learning
- Exercises are included throughout, to encourage interactive learning and true engagement with the material
- Includes a Glossary of relevant terms, meaning the content is accessible to those who have no prior knowledge of the subject
- A large number of references and websites are included, directing the reader to further sources of information

Most of the industrialized world now comprises of multi-ethnic societies, with people from widely varying ancestry, cultures, languages, and beliefs. With globalization of trade, increasing international travel, and migration, the whole world is destined to become multi-ethnic within the next 20 or 30 years. This poses huge challenges for doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, health care managers, and policy makers who have to meet legal and policy obligations to deliver health outcomes, and provide health care of equal quality and effectiveness. To achieve this, they need a solid understanding of the underlying concepts of race and ethnicity, and how these are applied to achieve better health for ethnic minority populations. They also need to have an awareness of the misuses of these concepts, particularly taking into account the history of racism that permeates many societies to this day.

Written in non-technical language, with all terminology explained and defined, this book provides an accessible introduction to these complex issues. The key concepts of race and ethnicity are explained, including their uses and misuses. The strengths and weaknesses of these concepts in terms of epidemiology, policy making, health service planning, research, health care, and health promotion are illustrated. The book emphasises theory, ideas, and principles, and its aims are to help counteract the unethical and atheoretical methods often used to study ethnicity. Practical application of the theory is demonstrated through the use of extensive examples. The conceptual frameworks of ethnicity and race required by practitioners and researchers are slightly different, including the nature of research questions, the relative value of various methods of classification, and the approach to data analysis, presentation, and interpretation, and these differences are made explicit. Overall, the interdependence of theory and practice is demonstrated, making this an ideal foundation text or refresher for those involved in race and ethnicity from a health care perspective.

Readership: This book is aimed at MSc Public Health courses, and is especially relevant for those studying ethnicity and race in the health care context. The interested undergraduate will also find the text accessible. Clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and planners needing a clear introduction to the fundamental ideas, strengths, and limitations of the concepts of race and ethnicity will also find this book of interest.

Contents

1. Introduction: the concepts of ethnicity and race in health
2. Terminology and classifications for ethnic and racial groups
3. Challenges of collecting and interpreting data using the concepts of ethnicity and race
4. Historical analysis of the development of health and health care services for ethnic minorities
5. Defining health and health care needs using quantitative and qualitative data
6. Ethnic inequalities in health and health care
7. Principles for setting priorities for ethnic minority populations
8. Strategic approaches to health and health care services for ethnic minority groups
9. Research on and with ethnic minority groups: past and future
10. Theoretical, ethical and future-orientated perspectives

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