

Culturally Appropriate Measures of Spirituality

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Background



■ Spirituality

- Identified as a protective and mediating factor in health promotion and illness prevention in African Americans
- Quality of research methodology criticized
 - Lack of a clearly defined construct of spirituality

Sources: Banks-Wallace & Parks, 2004; Berry, 2005; Delaney, 2005
Lewis et al., 2007; Mattis, 2000; Newlin et al., 2002

Background



■ Spirituality

- Numerous instruments have been developed for investigating relationships between spirituality and health
- Majority of instruments developed using researcher imposed definitions of spirituality
- Spirituality is a highly individualistic construct influenced by culture, world view, and interpretation

Sources: Campesino, 2006; Delaney, 2005; Martsofff & Mickey, 1998; Newlin, Knafl, & Melkus, 2002)

Background



■ Spirituality

- Findings documenting any relationships between spirituality and health in African Americans may be limited
- No research conducted evaluating the cultural appropriateness of various spirituality instruments for African Americans

Purpose



- Evaluate the construct validity and reliability of instruments used to measure the construct of spirituality.

Specific Aims



- Examine the construct of African American spirituality
- Differentiate among instruments that assess spirituality
- Determine the generalizability of spirituality instruments among African Americans

Cultural Dimensions of African American Spirituality



- Faith in a transcendent force
- Personal relationships with God, others, and self
- Empowering transformation and liberating consolation

Methods



- Systematic Review
- Search Strategy for Identification of Studies
 - HAPI
 - Medline
 - CINAHL
 - PsychINFO
 - PUBMED
- Criteria for Considering Studies
 - Inclusion Criteria
 - Examined spirituality and physical or mental health
 - Included a measure of spirituality
 - Exclusion Criteria
 - Did not report reliability and validity data
 - Did not report sample race and/or ethnicity
 - Did not report findings in English

Results

- Initial Search Strategy
 - 108 citations
 - 10 spirituality instruments

Results



- Final Sample of Studies
 - 35 studies met the full eligibility criteria
 - African Americans represented in 71% of the studies (n=25)
 - Range of health diagnoses
 - Cancer (n=10)
 - HIV/AIDS (n=8)
 - Heart Disease (n=2)
 - Other (n=7)
 - Healthy Subjects (n=13)

Results



- Final Sample of Studies
 - 5 spirituality instruments
 - Spiritual Well-Being Scale (SWBS)
 - Index of Spirituality Experiences (INSPIRIT)
 - JAREL Spiritual Well-Being Scale
 - Spiritual Perspective Scale (SPS)

Results: Development & Initial Psychometric Validation



■ Spiritual-Well Being Scale (SWBS)

- Authors
 - Paloutzian & Ellison, 1972
- Domains/Subscales
 - Religious well-being (10 items)
 - Existential well-being (10 items)
- Total Items
 - 20
- Population
 - 100 Caucasian American college students
- Cronbach's alphas
 - SWB = 0.89
 - RWB = 0.96
 - EWB = 0.78

Results: Instrument Evaluation



- Spiritual-Well Being Scale (SWBS)
 - 19 studies
 - African Americans represented in 15 studies
 - Relational attribute of African American spirituality

Results: Development & Initial Psychometric Validation



■ Index of Spiritual Experiences (INSPIRIT)

- Authors
 - Kass et al., 1991
- Domains/Subscales
 - Occurrences of experiences
 - Feelings of closeness to God
- Total Items
 - 7
- Population
 - 83 medical outpatients
 - 94% Caucasian American
- Cronbach's alpha
 - 0.90

Results: Instrument Evaluation

- Index of Spiritual Experiences (INSPIRIT)
 - 4 studies
 - African Americans represented in 1 study
 - Relational attribute of African American spirituality

Results: Development & Initial Psychometric Validation



■ JAREL Spiritual Well-Being Scale

- Authors
 - Hungelmann et al., 1996
- Domains/Subscales
 - Relationship
 - Other/Nature
 - Self
 - Time
- Total Items
 - 21
- Population
 - 31 older adults
 - Race and ethnicity not reported
- Cronbach's alpha
 - None reported

Results: Instrument Evaluation



- JAREL Spiritual Well-Being Scale
 - 4 studies
 - African Americans represented in 3 studies
 - Relational attribute of African American spirituality
 - Faith in a transcendent force attribute of African American spirituality

Results: Development & Initial Psychometric Validation



- Spiritual Perspective Scale (SPS)
 - Authors
 - Reed, 1986; 1987
 - Domains/Subscales
 - Sense of relatedness to something to a transcendent dimension
 - Total Items
 - 10
 - Population
 - 300 adults
 - 81% Caucasian American
 - Cronbach's alpha
 - 0.90

Results: Instrument Evaluation

- Spiritual Perspective Scale (SPS)
 - 3 studies
 - African Americans represented in all of the studies
 - Relational attribute of African American spirituality

Results: Development & Initial Psychometric Validation



■ Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Spiritual (FACIT-Sp)

- Authors
 - Peterman et al., 2002
- Domains/Subscales
 - Sense of meaning and peace (8 items)
 - Role of faith in illness (4 items)
- Total Items
 - 12
- Population
 - 1,617 cancer patients
 - 24.5% Caucasian American
 - 44.4% Latino
 - 31.1% African American
- Cronbach's alpha
 - Total FACIT-Sp = 0.87
 - Meaning/Peace = 0.81
 - Faith = 0.88

Results: Instrument Evaluation



- Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy-Spiritual (FACIT-Sp)

- 5 studies
- African Americans represented in 4 studies
- Faith in a transcendent force attribute of African American spirituality
- Empowering transformative and liberating consolation attributes of African American spirituality

Limitations



- Several spirituality instruments were not able to be reviewed because published studies not report the instrument's reliability and validity data with their respective samples.
- Several spirituality instruments were not able to be reviewed because published studies did not report sample race and/or ethnicity
- No psychometric scrutiny for newer measures.

Discussion

- Most of the spirituality measures were developed and validated on primarily Caucasian American populations.
- Limited numbers of African Americans included in the populations of published studies.

Recommendations



- Examine psychometric properties of existing spirituality measures in entirely African American samples.
- Development of a more appropriate measure of spirituality.

Further Information about the Review



- Lewis, L.M. (in press). Spiritual assessment in African-Americans: A review of measures of spirituality used in health research. *Journal of Religion and Health*, xx, xxx-xxx.

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