

## Session

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### **Rema Lapouse and Carl Taube Award Lectures: Culture, Context and Well-Being of Youth of Color (Dr. Alegria). Mental Health at the Intersection of Covid-19 and the Anti-Racist Movement (Dr. Mays)**

**Tiffany Haynes, PhD**, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, **Mary Jane Alexander, PhD**, Department of Psychiatry, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY, **Ron Manderscheid, PhD**, National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors, Washington, DC and **James C. Anthony, PhD**, Lansing, MI

*APHA's 2020 VIRTUAL Annual Meeting and Expo (Oct. 24 - 28)*

#### Abstract

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#### **The role of culture and context in theory, practice and intervention development to ensure the well-being of youth of color**

**Margarita Alegria, PhD**

Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

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Abstract The recent National Academies of Medicine report, *The Promise of Adolescence* highlights the urgency of preventing youth mental health disorders because of their enormous adverse consequences for the well-being of young people and their families, and particularly for youth of color. Within the social science and medical literature, various theoretical approaches seek to link culture and context to mental health outcomes. This presentation integrates epidemiological findings with qualitative studies of the role of culture and neighborhood context in mental health outcomes for youth of color. I illustrate the role with three research studies providing insights into theory, clinical practice and needed public health interventions to improve mental health of youth of color. I emphasize the value of cross-disciplinary collaborations in this effort.

Social and behavioral sciences

#### Abstract

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#### **Black mental health does matter: Understanding mental health and psychological distress at the intersections of covid-19 and the anti-racist movement**

**Vickie Mays, MD, MPH**

University of California, Los Angeles, BRITE Center, Los Angeles, CA

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While Black Lives Matter, as an anti-racist movement, has been in existence for several years, it was not until recent months that there has been a colliding visualization of the all too common violence of black deaths at the hands of law enforcement and civil unrest. It is no accident that these events have occurred simultaneously with yet another health crisis, pandemic Covid-19, where Black Americans are once more suffering in greater numbers than their representation in American life. At these intersections of personal suffering whether it be in Covid-related survival threats or greater risk for Covid-related mortality and battle fatigue from fighting the day-to-day onslaught of unpredictable racist encounters, many Black Americans find themselves struggling to cope with the psychological consequences of this most stressful time in American Life in the last many decades. In this presentation, I will frame available data on the mental health experiences of Black Americans during the intersection of BLM and Covid-19. A key focus will be underscoring the ways in which these mental health experiences are increasing vulnerabilities for Black Americans for Covid-19 infection.



