

MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA IN THE WEST PHILADELPHIA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

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Participant Recruitment

- Proposed n = 11-13
- Aged 21-65
- Live within the five zip codes of West Philadelphia
- Flyers posted in commonly frequented establishments (grocery stores, mosques, community centers)

Methods

- Qualitative interviews conducted over the phone with eligible participants
- Results will be analyzed for patterns and future work

Aims of the Project

- Analyze factors that contribute to mental health stigma within this community
- Gather information about barriers and facilitators of access to mental health care in the West Philadelphia Muslim community
- Inform and advise religious leaders on advocacy by producing a list of recommended strategies to promote advocacy within the community

Implications

- Since this research topic is under-addressed in the literature, this study will provide important information about the factors affecting mental health in Muslim communities in West Philadelphia.
- Results will be shared with the community and will be part of a long term conversation about ways to effectively reduce stigma and gaps in mental healthcare among community members.

Research Questions

- Have you heard of mental health discussed in a sermon, or in Arabic, a khutbah, at your mosque?
- What is important for members of the mental health community to know about working with members of the Muslim community?
- What are the most pressing mental health concerns facing the Muslim community in West Philadelphia, in your opinion?