New! The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) Evidence Map Mariel Solomon, MS, CCC-SLP*

In 2019, ASHA's Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrated their 50th anniversary. Their mission is to address issues related to the cultural and linguistic diversity of clinicians and people with communication disorders and differences. These issues include increasing ASHA members' cultural competence; which ASHA defines as the ability to consider how cultural variables and dimensions of diversity can affect professional and client/caregiver interactions. The anniversary celebration may be over, but the goal to increase ASHA members' cultural competence continues.

To help you through the journey to cultural competence, ASHA's National Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Communication Disorders (N-CEP) created the <u>Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) Evidence Map</u>. Our world is becoming more diverse and every day we encounter clients and patients from many different communities each with their own set of unique experiences. The information in the CLD Evidence Map is just as diverse as the people we serve with a total of 95 articles including systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines, and ASHA policy documents.



Those 95 articles encompass a wide range of clinical populations, such as voice, spoken language disorders, hearing loss, and many others. All clinical populations intersect with one or more aspects of cultural and linguistic diversity like multilingualism, race, gender identity, and socioeconomic status. So, if you want more information about which aphasia assessments have valid translations in other languages or want evidence on cultural considerations for use of augmentative and alternative communication, then the CLD Evidence Map can help.

The map also includes articles that address communities that don't immediately come to mind when you think of CLD populations, such as veteran status or individuals living in urban or remote areas. The individuals in these communities can add another layer of unique experiences to consider. But no matter the background or language, you should always consider your client's distinctive experiences when making an evidence-based clinical decision. Visit our new CLD Evidence Map today and tell us what you think at ncep@asha.org.

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