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WELCOME

The Intersection of Kinship Care and Culture Among African & Caribbean Communities in the United States: Research & Practice
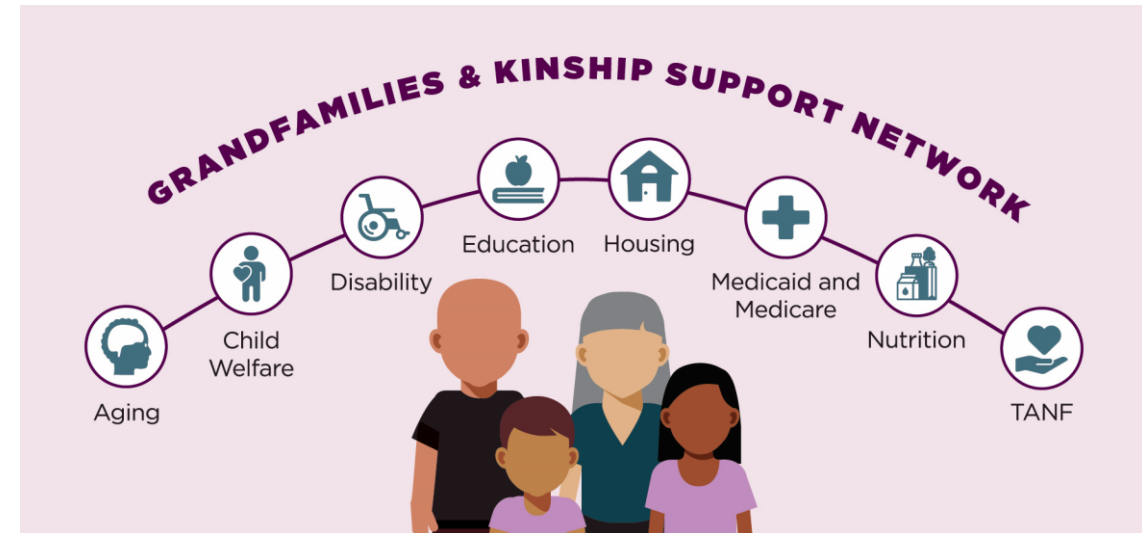
April 12, 2023

- We will begin at the top of the hour

- Please type in the **chat -** your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role

- We'll pause for questions throughout – please type your questions in the **chat** box at any time

- All participants will receive a link to the slides and the recording by the end of the week

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- 5-year (2021-2026), $10-million cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living

- Generations United has worked on behalf of and with kinship/grandfamilies since 1997

- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of government agencies and organizations that serve kinship families

- Not designed to help the families directly – working to improve systems for families

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How We Help

Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts webinars and facilitates learning collaboratives.

Individual Assistance

We respond to individual requests for help from government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Targeted, Specialized Support

For jurisdictions that want and are ready for a larger investment of effort, the Network will help optimize their collaborative approaches and improve their services. Solutions will be replicable for others.

A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its new accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.

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The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Kinship/Grandfamilies

We help government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children.

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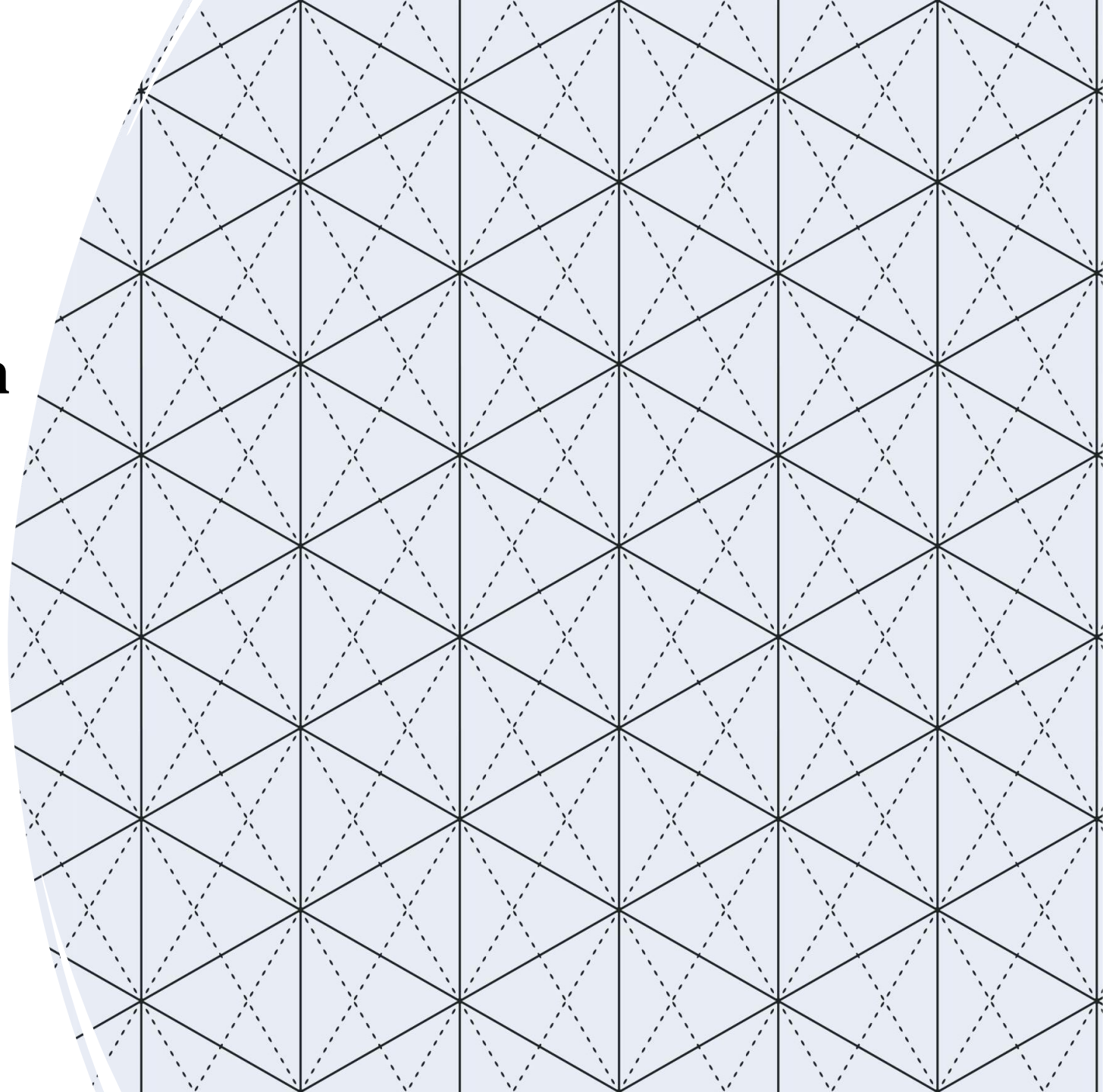
Presenters:
Dr. Hadih Deedat
Dr. Eric Edi
Moderator:
Dr. Anita Rogers

Objectives

Following the webinar, participants will be able to:

- Appreciate the role and significance of culture and norms for African and Caribbean immigrants
- Identify unique kinship family dynamics that frame daily life
- Understand the resources that support these families
- Understand the cultural and governmental barriers that may interfere with them securing kinship supports
- Develop effective service models and practices for working with them

Background of African and Caribbean Immigrants and Refugees

Migration to the United States

Social Structures (Diversity, Marriage, and Religion)

Profession

Terminologies

- Immigrant/foreign-born: anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as foreign students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees and asylees), and unauthorized migrants.

- Refugee

- Exilee

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

African and Caribbean Immigrants the U.S.

Africans

- A person born in Africa or in the Caribbean Islands who is a native to Africa
- A descendant of a native of Africa or traces their ancestry to native inhabitants of Africa
- From 54 countries divided into five regions (West, East, South, Central, and North Africa)
- Over 1,4 billion people as of 2023
- Over 1,200 native languages

Map Of Africa

Demographics of African and Caribbean Immigrants in the U.S.

Caribbeans:

- Caribbean (West Indian):
- A person who is born in or is an inhabitant of the Caribbean region, or a Caribbean descent living outside the Caribbean.
- 13 sovereign countries (excluding Hispanic countries: Cuba, Dominican Republic, & Puerto Rico)
- 44.42 million people (2019)
- 6 official languages (Dutch, English, French, Haitian Creole, Spanish, and Papiamento)
- Numerous native languages
- Caribbeans in the U.S. (US Census Bureau)
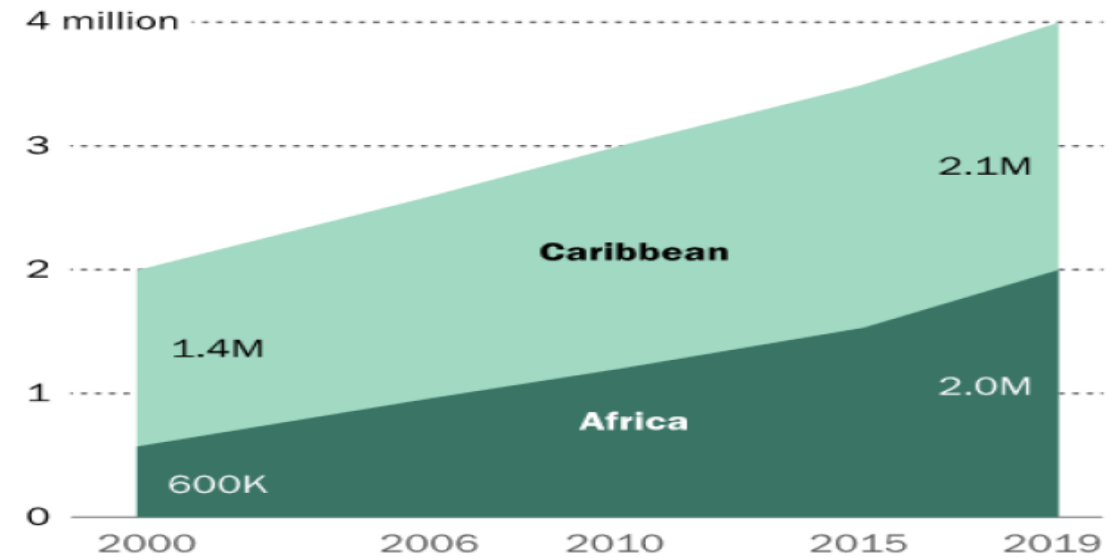- 3.06 million (non-Hispanic Caribbeans)

Black Immigrant Population in the U.S.

- Ten percent of Black people in the U.S. are immigrants (Pew Research Center, 2022)
- Nearly 9 in 10 (88%) Black immigrants in the U.S. are from the Caribbean and Africa (Pew Research Center, 2022)
- The Caribbean has the largest of Black immigrant population in the U.S (American Community Survey 2021)
  - Sub-Saharan Africans in the U.S 2,597,894
  - Caribbean immigrants: 4,517,939 people
- Fastest growth among African immigrants
  - Number will be higher if North Africans (non-Black Africans) are included

Number of Black immigrants from Africa living in the U.S. more than tripled from 2000 to 2019

U.S. Black immigrant population born in Africa and the Caribbean

4 million

3

2.1M

2

Caribbean

1.4M

1

2.0M

600K

Africa

0

2000   2006   2010   2015   2019

Note: Population numbers rounded to the nearest 100,000. "U.S. Black immigrants" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people and were born outside of the U.S. to non-U.S. citizens.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS) and the 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS).
"One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Patterns of Immigration in the US

- Black migrants from Africa and the Caribbean mainly arrive in the U.S. as recipients of family-based visas

- According to a report on The State of Black Immigrants, by Black Alliance for Just Immigrant and New York University Law School's Immigrant Rights Clinic:
  - 59% of Black immigrants arrive in the U.S. through family-sponsored visas
  - 10% arrive via the diversity visa program
  - Black migrants comprise 35% of all asylum applicants and 23% of all refugees
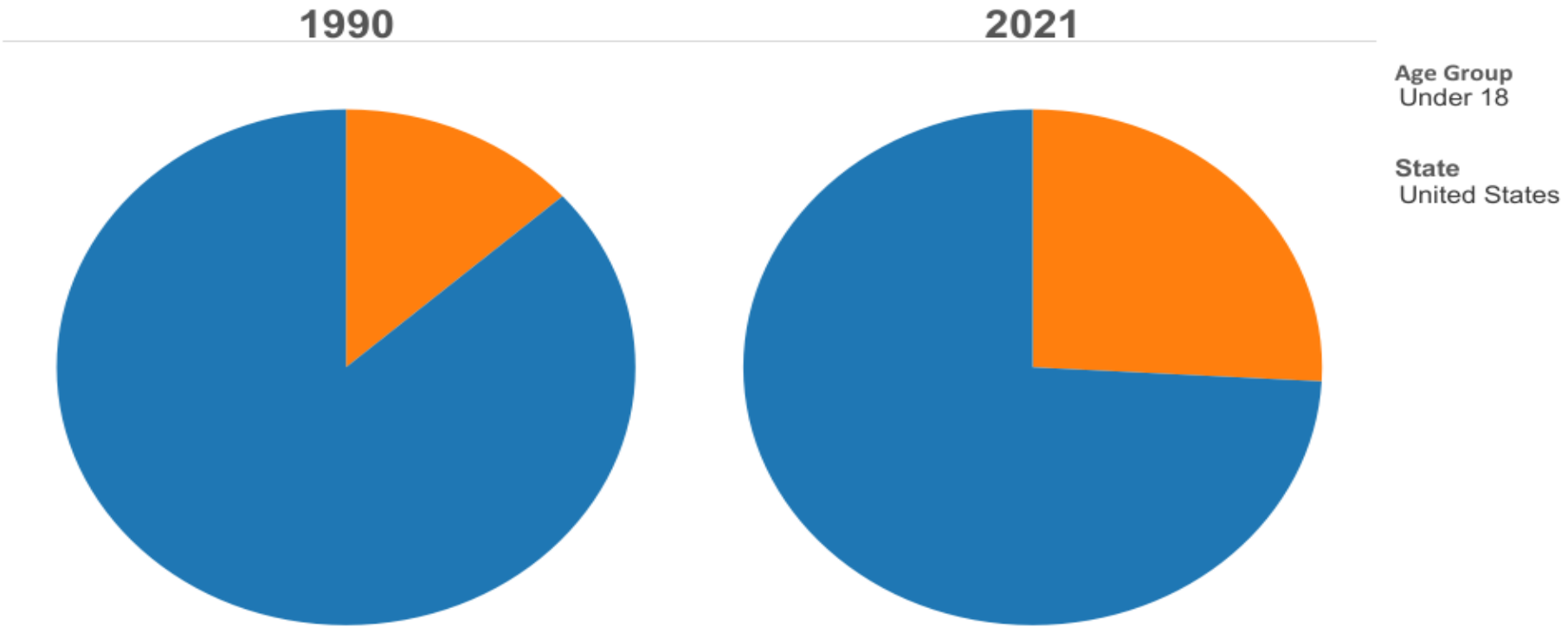
Social Structures: Family, Mariage & Religion

Family

- Mixed families by ethnicity and race
- Mixed by immigration status
- Multi-family units

Religion

- Christianity
- Evangelical
- Other faiths

Children in U.S. Immigrant Families:
Number and Share of the Total U.S. Child Population, by Age Group and State

1990

2021

Age Group
Under 18

State
United States

■ Share of children from immigrant families   ■ Share of children from native families

Children with at least one immigrant parent:	8,194,000	Children with at least one immigrant parent:	18,021,000
Share of children above who were born in the United States:	77.0%	Share of children above who were born in the United States:	87.9%

"Kinship Care" in African and Caribbean Communities

"My brother, my sister, my uncle, my aunt, my niece, my nephew."

- The main form of cross-border kinship care is an informal arrangement that can be just temporary.

- It involves more especially, though not solely, sending a child from a developing or a transition country to stay with relatives residing in another country.

- "Informal daycare"

Traditional Family Patterns

Cultural Dynamics and Norms
- Family unit
- Marriage patterns and preferences
- Attachment, Separation, and Loss
- Narrative of parents separated from & reunited with their children
- Parenting

Role of Culture
- Parenting styles
- Community and cultural gathering
- Annual heritage celebrations (Independence Day, national team competitions)
- Value of education
- Views of schools

Barriers to Kinship Care Services

- Ignorance and fear of the child welfare system
- Child abuse clearance
- Low income and under-resourced working families
- Discrimination
- Language barriers
- Encounters with the police
- Domestic violence
- Immigration status
  - Fear of deportation
- Immigration-related trauma

Access Points for Outreach and Engagement

Faith-based organizations (Churches and Mosques)

Grassroots community-based organizations
- National organizations
- Ethnic groups
- Sports/ soccer groups

Community-based agencies for this population
- Immigrant-led agencies
- Immigration agencies
- Translation services

Educational systems (Public and private schools; Afterschool programs)

Business corridors
- Small and Micro-businesses
- Hair braiding, ethnic grocery stores, ethnic restaurants

Access Points for Outreach and Engagement

Social media
- Podcast shows
- Online community

Local Media
- Newsletters
- Cable shows
- Radio shows

Local Government Agencies
- Specialized commissions and agencies
- Council members

Consulates and Embassies

Culturally Responsive Service Strategies

- Recognize that this population has been untapped to receive kinship support.
- Conduct an environmental scan of the targeted community to identify where most African-Caribbean families live.
- Identify what community agencies currently serve this population
- Understand the reluctance of kinship families to get involved with any related governmental systems (i.e., immigration status, culture, language barriers)
- Partner with local agencies that focus on these communities to provide shared services.
- Identify a trusted community liaison to provide entry into these communities.
- Recognize that proposed services and meetings with these populations should not interfere with their religious holidays.
- Include in the intake information about their immigration challenges and status.

Reframing Policy and Practice

- Recruit representatives of these communities into formal planning groups for city, state, and federal policies (i.e., kinship committees, resource listing in kinship navigators, listing in kinship resource guides).

- Incorporate information about these groups into the professional development of agencies(i.e., child welfare, educational, behavioral health, recreational).

- Create and distribute "Tip Sheets" and "Fact Sheets" for working with this population.

- Other studies have shown that social networks and community resources are protective factors associated with involvement with the CWS (Davidson et al., 2019)

Kinship Care & the U.S. Child Welfare System

- In many kinship care arrangements, the CW system is not involved (informal kinship care)
- However, the CW system and the courts get involved in kinship care arrangements if child abuse or neglect is perpetrated (formal kinship care)
- CW systems recognize the benefits of kinship care:
  - ➢Minimized trauma
  - ➢Preservation of cultural identity
  - ➢Increased placement stability
  - ➢Improved behavioral outcomes
    - ➢ Fewer behavioral issues compared to children in traditional foster care system
  - ➢Promotion of sibling ties
- The dynamics between the U.S. CW system and Blacks makes kinship care more necessary than ever

Blacks and the Child Welfare System

- Blacks are overrepresented in the U.S. CW system (Cénat et al., 2021; Child Welfare Information Gateway, CWIG, 2016; 2021 Dettlaff & Boyd, 2021)
- Contributing factors:
  - Poverty
  - Racial discrimination
  - Lack of formal and informal supports
  - Child welfare worker bias
    - (Cénat et al., 2021; CWIG, 2016).
- Black immigrant parents are at risk of becoming entangled with U.S. CW system due to myriad of factors (Deedat et al. 2023)
  - Further discussion on next slides

- Qualitative research on Black African immigrants and the U.S. CW System

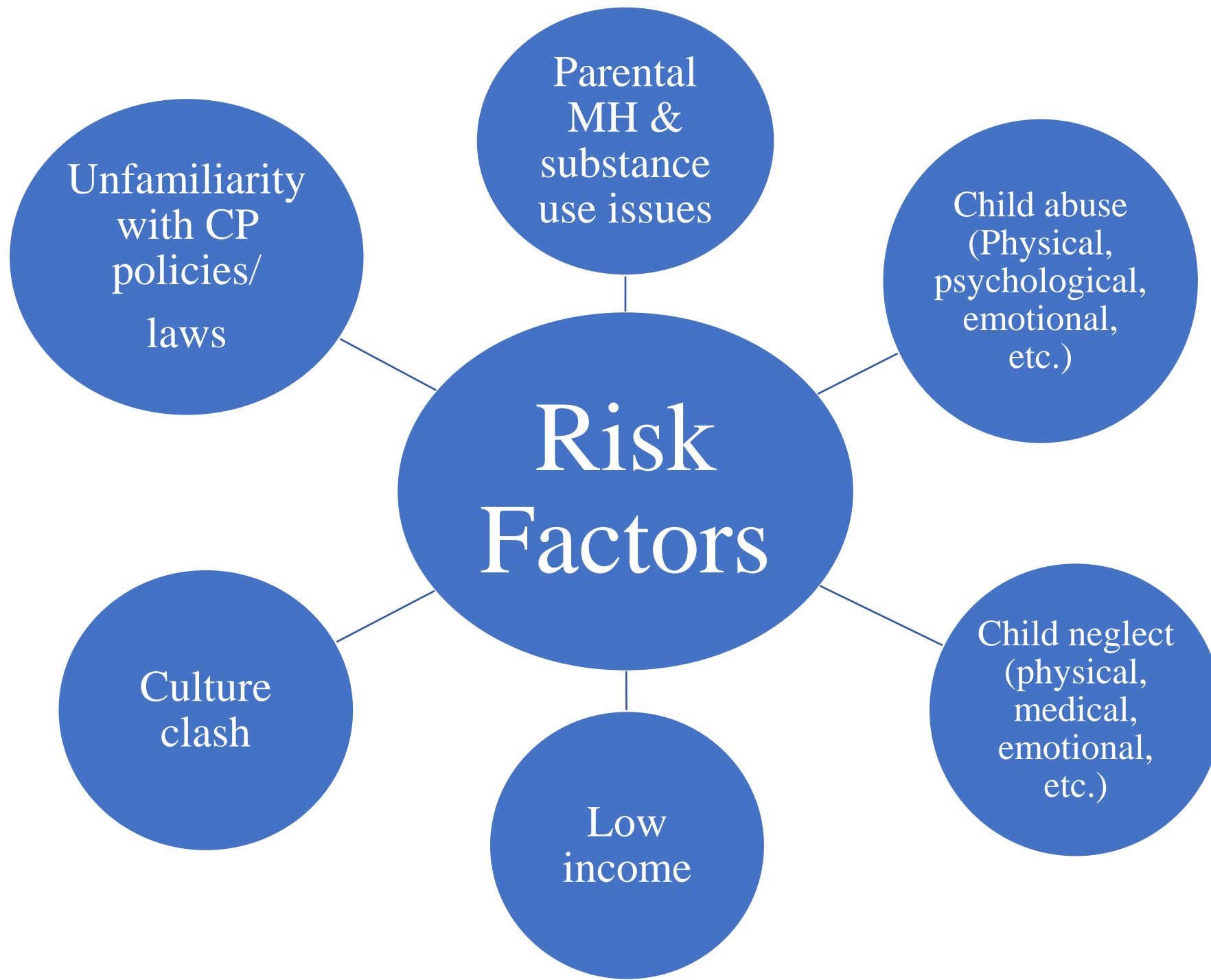 - Deedat, Baba, & Faye (in-press)

Study Participants

- 15 total
  - 7 females (47%), 8 males (53%)
  - 12 from PA, 3 from DE
- All participants lived in the United States for at least five years
- Migrated from six sub-Saharan African countries
  - Anglophone: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, & Sierra Leone
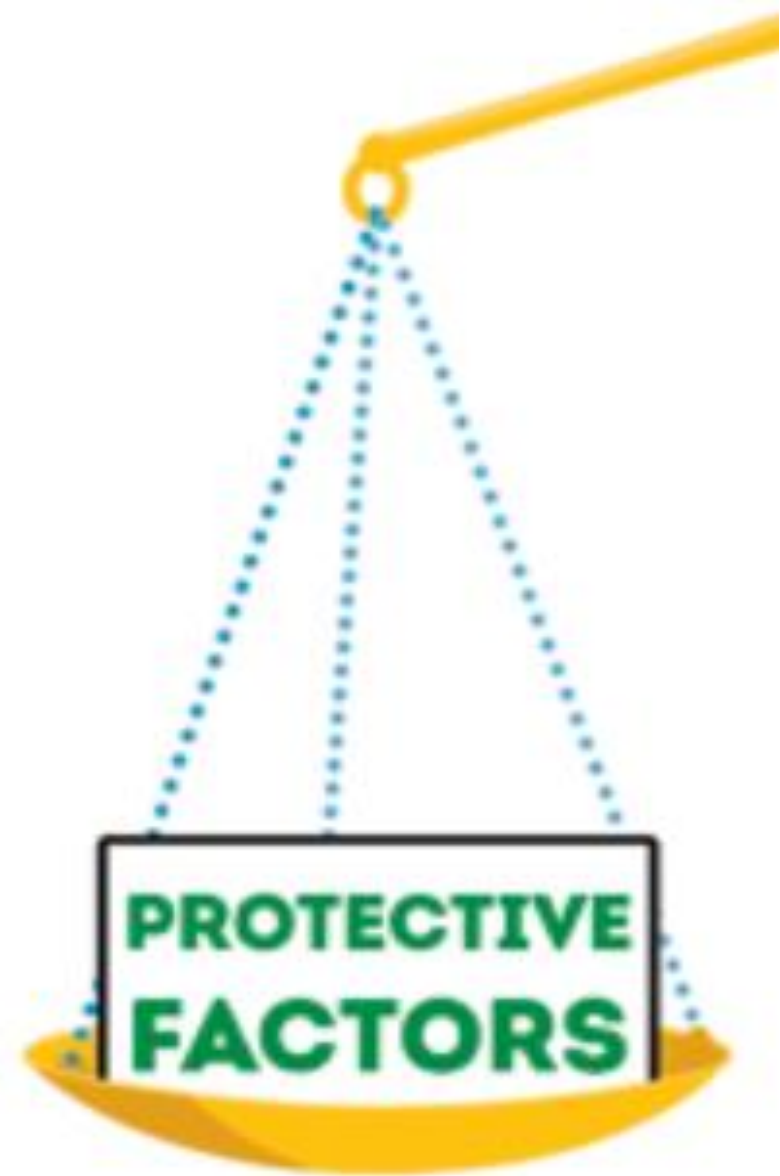 - Francophone: Ivory Coast, Senegal

Findings

Two major themes:

Risk Factors

- Parental MH & substance use issues
- Unfamiliarity with CP policies/ laws
- Child abuse (Physical, psychological, emotional, etc.)
- Culture clash
- Low income
- Child neglect (physical, medical, emotional, etc.)

- Home training
- Avoidance of abuse and neglect
- Responsible parenting
- Community resources
- **Social support/networks**
  - **Kinship/familial support**

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Implications of the Study For Kinship Care

Partnership with community organizations to connect Black immigrants to income-generating opportunities
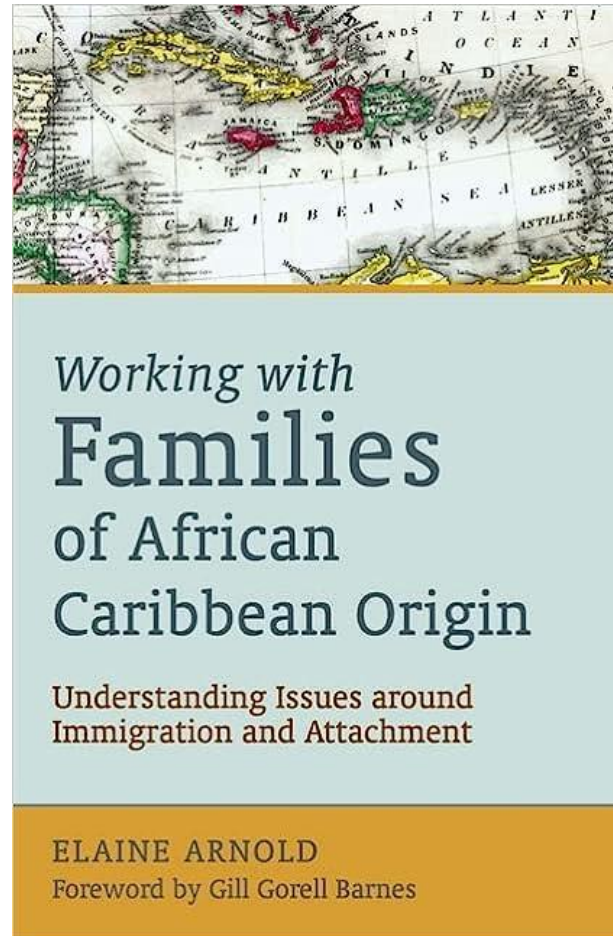
Sensitizing Black immigrants on child abuse and neglect laws, policies, and practices

Integrating Black community networks into the child welfare framework

System of educating newly arrived Black immigrants of resources available to them

Interdisciplinary approach to include social welfare, public health, and mental health to support Black immigrants

Suggested Reading/Research

An Interview with the author: https://youtu.be/DGWRrK_oknA

- Working with Families of African Caribbean Origin: Understanding Issues around Immigration and Attachment | The British Journal of Social Work | Oxford Academic (oup.com) (behind paywall)

Suggested Reading/Research

Balgopal, P. R. (2000). *Social work practice with immigrants and refugees*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- [Social Work Practice with Immigrants and Refugees on JSTOR](#) (behind paywall)

Bornstein, M., & Bohr, Y. (2011). Immigration, acculturation and parenting. *Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development: Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development.*
- [immigration-acculturation-and-parenting (child-encyclopedia.com)](#)

Cénat, J. M., McIntee, S., Mukunzi, J. N., & Noorishad, P. (2021). Overrepresentation of Black children in the child welfare system: A systematic review to understand and better act. Children and Youth Services Review, 120.

- [Overrepresentation of Black children in the child welfare system: A systematic review to understand and better act – ScienceDirect](#) (behind paywall)

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- [Culturally Diverse Parent-Child and Family Relationships | Columbia University Press](#) (behind paywall)

Suggested Reading/Research

Deedat, H., Baba, Z., & Faye, P. (in press). Sub-Saharan African immigrant parents and child protection in the United States: Considerations for the U.S. child welfare system. *APSAC Advisor*.
- PowerPoint Presentation (asswa.org)

Dettlaff, A. J., & Boyd, R. (2021). Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in the Child Welfare System: Why Do They Exist, and What Can Be Done to Address Them? The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 692, 253-274.
- Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in the Child Welfare System: Why Do They Exist, and What Can Be Done to Address Them? - Alan J. Dettlaff, Reiko Boyd, 2020 (sagepub.com) (behind paywall)

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- Immigrant families and public child welfare: barriers to services and approaches for change - PubMed (nih.gov) (behind paywall)

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- (URL not publicly posted)

Matthews, L., & Mahoney, A. (2005). Facilitating a smooth transitional process for immigrant Caribbean children: The role of teachers, social workers, and related professional staff. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work:: Innovation in Theory, Research & Practice*, *14*(1/2), 69–92.
- Facilitating a Smooth Transitional Process for Immigrant Caribbean Children: The Role of Teachers, Social Workers, and Related Professional Staff: Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work: Vol 14, No 1-2 (tandfonline.com) (behind paywall)

Suggested Reading/Research

Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, 2019, and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS), and 2000 Decennial Census; data for 1960 to 1990 were from Campbell J. Gibson and Emily Lennon, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-1990" (Working Paper No. 29, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., February 1999).

- [U.S. Immigrant Population and Share over Time, 185.. | migrationpolicy.org](#)
- [Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign Born Population: 1850-1990](#)

Mitchell, N., & Bryan, J. (2007). School-family-community partnerships: Strategies for school counselors working with Caribbean immigrant families. *Professional School Counseling*, *10*(4), 399–409.
Pew Research Center (2022). The Caribbean is the largest origin source of Black immigrants, but fastest growth is among African immigrants. https://www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2022/01/20/the-caribbean-is-the-largest-origin-source-of-black-immigrants-but-fastest-growth-is-among-african-immigrants/

Pew Research Center (2022). Key findings about Black immigrants in the U.S. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/01/27/key-findings-about-black-immigrants-in-the-u-s/

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- [Understanding the Impact of Parental Migration on Children: Implications for Counseling Families from the Caribbean](#)

Suggested Reading/Research

Roselyn B. (2020) A Brief Overview of Black Immigrant Women and Girls in the United States. BAJI. Retrieved from [BIWG (baji.org)](baji.org)

Taylor, Robert Joseph, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Karen Lincoln & Linda Chatters. Extended Family Support Networks of Caribbean Black Adults in the United States. *J Fam Issues. 2017 Mar; 38(4): 522–546.*

- [Extended Family Support Networks of Caribbean Black Adults in the United States - Robert Joseph Taylor, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Karen D. Lincoln, Linda M. Chatters, 2017 (sagepub.com)](sagepub.com) (behind paywall)

Wheeler, D. P., & Mahoney, A. M. (2008). Caribbean immigrants in the United States— Health and health care: The need for a social agenda. *Health & Social Work*, *33*(3), 238–240.
- [Caribbean immigrants in the United States--health and health care: the need for a social agenda - PubMed (nih.gov)](nih.gov) (behind paywall)

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- [The mental health of Black Caribbean immigrants: results from the National Survey of American Life - PubMed (nih.gov)](nih.gov) (behind paywall)

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- [Factors related to help-seeking attitudes about professional mental health services among Jamaican immigrants - Cordelle B Yorke, Dexter R Voisin, Donna Baptiste, 2016 (sagepub.com)](sagepub.com) (behind paywall)