

Depression, Anxiety, and Coping: A Social Gerontology Perspective

Abstract: Given the current and future shortage of geriatric mental health providers and inadequate reimbursement for services, it is not surprising that less than 25% of older adults requiring mental health services ever receive treatment. Mental disorders are not caused by aging, and yet they occur regularly in the older adult cohort. While these disorders may be experienced without significant disruptions in their behaviors or mental health, they may be experienced as chronic mental disorders. For the latter, proper diagnosis and treatment is critical to ensure the individual and societal effects do not become insurmountable.

Presentation Description: This one hour interactive presentation is designed to heighten the awareness of specific mental disorders, their causes, symptoms, outcomes and effective treatments through a societal lens. It also differentiates between care giving settings in relation to the proclivity for certain mental disorders based upon an individual's surroundings, as well as the increased incidence in the disorders based upon present chronic illness conditions. A socio-demographic snapshot of mental disorder correlation is provided along with its susceptibility and risk in terms of age, gender and other factors (which create implications and responsibilities for society).

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will identify the nature and effects of specific mental disorders.
2. Participants will describe how society accommodates mental disorders in the population.
3. Participants will explain how specific measurement instruments are used to assess specific mental disorders.