



CWHS

# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Sociocultural differences among groups may contribute to variations in desirability and accessibility of mental health care services among women of different ages and race/ethnicities. Limited population-based information is currently available about women's desire for and access to these services. This information is useful for developing services appropriate to women of specific age and racial/ethnic groups and assessing unmet need for mental health services. The 1997 California Women's Health Survey provided the opportunity to address these issues. Accessibility of mental health services is affected by many factors related to age and race/ethnicity including income, health insurance status, knowledge of where and how to access services, and ability to balance other demands

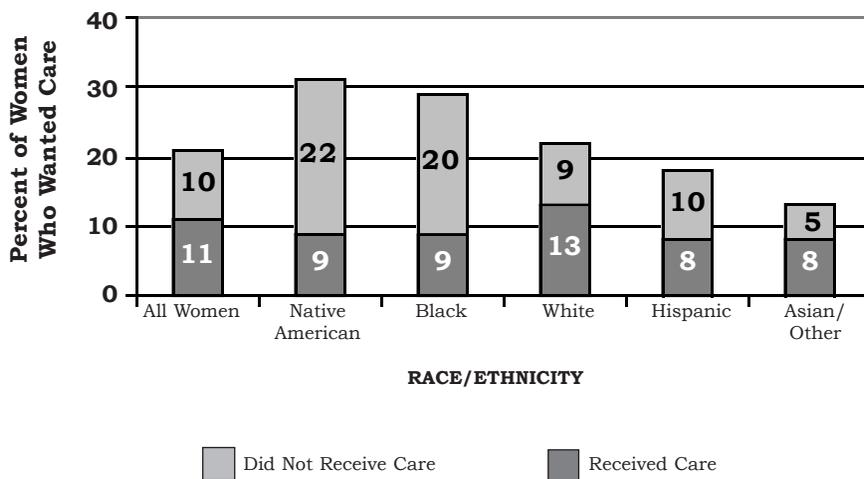
such as work and household responsibilities.

- Of the 21% of women who wanted help from a mental health professional, 53% received the help they wanted.
- Both desire for mental health services and receipt of mental health care among those who wanted it varied by race/ethnicity and age.
- Women under age 45 were more likely than older women to want care, but less likely to get care if they wanted it.
- Compared to women of other race/ethnicities, Native American and Black women were most likely to want care, but least likely to receive care if they wanted it.

## RECEIPT OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE AMONG CALIFORNIA WOMEN, BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE

*Office of Women's Health  
Maternal and Child Health Branch  
Department of Mental Health, Systems of Care Division*

**Desire for and Receipt of Mental Health Care Among Women, By Race/Ethnicity; California, 1997**



### Public Health Message:

*In this survey, a large proportion of Native American and Black women wanted help from a mental health professional but did not receive the care they wanted. Further studies are needed to explore the reasons some California women do not receive the mental health care they desire.*

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