Abstract

This research study examined how stereotyping of Indigenous peoples impacts health service provider attitudes, actions and services to Indigenous peoples. This was done by assessing incidents posted by health service provider participants in the BC Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), San’yas Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) program. The data was coded and analyzed for prevalence of specific stereotypes, attitudes, type of harm, and sites of harm. Anonymous demographic identifiers selected by health service providers were also analyzed as secondary data to provide information regarding the standpoint and perspective of participants observing the harms in health services. These data provide a better understanding of stereotype harm and Indigenous specific racism in Health Systems on both an organizational and individual level. This study may also assist system design and service delivery to become safer for Indigenous peoples and to address unparalleled inequities between Settler Canadians and Indigenous peoples. The intent was to assist Settler service providers to understand how unexamined stereotypes can seriously harm Indigenous people. A mixed methods study of the examples provided by participants provided both quantitative and qualitative research data to examine and better understand the prevalence, impact, and context of stereotyping incidents.

Research questions answered:

1. What stereotypes of Indigenous peoples are reported by health service providers?
2. What attitudes towards Indigenous peoples are reported by health service providers?
3. What types of harm are reported by health service providers to Indigenous peoples accessing health systems?
4. Where are stereotypes occurring within health care systems?

Keywords: Colonization, Indigenous Cultural Safety, stereotype harm on service delivery, Indigenous-specific racism, critical race theory, Settler identity development, critical Whiteness, colonial dynamics.