Vulnerable Populations at Georgia Tech: Psychometric Disparities and Comparative Mental Health Resources

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Abstract
Rates of mental illness have steadily risen at college campuses in recent years. While this phenomenon has been well-characterized at a population-scale, few analyses have assessed mental health disparities among college subpopulations. Using the 2017 Georgia Tech Healthy Minds Survey and CCAPS-34, we use CCAPS-34 subscales to characterize vulnerable populations by statistical psychometric disparities. We found that LGBT+ and financially insecure individuals in particular experience disproportionate symptoms of mental illness. We use this quantitative evidence and qualitative data from the Intercollegiate Mental Health Conference to establish $300,000 in grants for vulnerable populations through the Mental Health Joint Allocations Committee. Findings have implications for research, practice, and policy.

Psychometric Disparities

Significant Differences*:
- Non-heterosexual (10.65%)
- Non-white (1.86%)
- Financially insecure (9.10%)

Comparative Mental Health Resources

1. Students create guides for financially insecure peers
   - UMich, UCLA, Virginia Tech
2. Large peer support group organizations have subgroups for LGBT+ students
   - UMich, Stanford
3. Micro grants retain thousands of financially insecure students
   - Georgia State University
4. Lack of common methodology to assess program and policy efficacy
   - All attendees

Conclusion and Discussion
- At Georgia Tech, LGBT+ and financially insecure students score significantly higher on CCAPS-34 subscales.
- Georgia Tech lacks multiple resources for financially insecure and LGBT+ students compared to peer institutions
- Standardized metrics of success do not exist in college mental health systems

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References