An Assessment of On campus support services for African American undergraduates at the University of Florida

Abstract A cross-sectional, mixed methods study was conducted at the University of Florida in order to evaluate social and emotional support, and minority stress among Black undergraduate students. Methods: 25 participants were recruited, 21 females and 4 males. Recruitment was facilitated via flyers, word of mouth, and social media postings. A 56 item survey was administered to students to assess support levels and minority status. The questionnaires utilized in the study were comprised of the Inventory Socially Supported Behaviors - Short Form (ISBS-SF), Minority Student Stress Scale (MSSS) and demographic information. Additionally, a short interview was conducted following completion of the questionnaire. Data was analyzed in SPSS 22.0 software and one sample t-test was conducted. Quantitative data was entered into Qualtrics and qualitative data was thematically coded. Results: Average score of ISBS-SF for females 20.5 and males 23.19. Average score of MSSS for females 91.9 and males 98.5. The calculated Spearman Rho coefficient between ISBS-SF and MSSS was -0.462. Conclusion: Results inferred stress levels amongst black undergraduate students were related to lack of support. This relationship was strongest in participants in the Junior class. Males had higher scores on the MSSS, indicating higher levels of stress. Implication of Findings: Black undergraduate students need more administrative support from university organizations at the University of Florida. Stress resulting from lack of support is a potential contributor to poor mental and physical health.