

Dahra Jackson Williams, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

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Education:

Pre-Doctoral Internship & Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington Delaware
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, University of Miami
M.A., Clinical Psychology, University of Miami
B.A., Psychology with Honors, Williams College, Massachusetts

Clinical Interests: My current clinical and research interests are in various areas of child-clinical and pediatric psychology. There is the primary focus of providing effective empirically based evaluations and interventions to children and adolescents (with or without chronic medical illness), while taking into consideration factors related to the child's family, culture, and society at large. Although my primary orientation is cognitive-behavioral, treatment is always considered in the context of the broader family system. There is also an emphasis on providing services that are sensitive to diversity. Think of it as "evidence-based, culturally-competent, solution-focused skills building!"

Research Interests: I am especially interested in potential barriers to psychological services and the stigma of mental health concerns especially among young minority populations. I have initiated a research program that investigates these and other related issues. Students are invited to participate in existing lines of investigation or develop research ideas in areas of child-clinical and pediatric psychology (adjustment and coping with chronic health issues). Current projects include the implementation of a group-based intervention at a local urban high school, understanding children's attitudes toward getting psychological help, and improving outcomes among children and adolescents with sickle cell disease. Students will have opportunities to be involved in all aspects of research (from design, implementation, analysis and presentation).

Professional Memberships and Activities:

American Psychological Association (APA)
APA Division 54 - Society of Pediatric Psychology
APA Division 45 - Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues

Graduate Courses Taught in the Doctoral Program:

Child & Adolescent Psychopathology
Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy
Assessment of Children and Adolescents
Pediatric Psychology
Advanced Seminar in Child & Family Clinical Psychology
Practicum Seminar

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Theories of Counseling & Psychotherapy

Introduction to Psychology

Refereed Publications:

Jackson, D.N. & Heatherington, L. (2006). Young Jamaicans' attitudes toward mental illness: Experimental and demographic factors associated with social distance and stigmatizing opinions *Journal of Community Psychology*, 34 (5), pgs 563-576

Williams, D.J., & Malik, N. (In Preparation). Help-Seeking Among Jamaican Adolescents: A structural equation model highlighting determinants of psychological help-seeking.

Williams, D.J., & Malik, N. (In Preparation). Where do Jamaican Adolescents turn to for psychological help?

Invited Talks/Presentations

Wadman, J, **Williams, D. J.**, Temple, D., Regan, J., & Bradley, H. (2008). A Sickle Cell Family Quilt: The Challenges and Potential Benefits of Experiencing this Chronic Illness. The annual Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Sowinski, C., **Williams, D. J.** (2008). Wellness for Life: How Therapeutic Recreation fits into the pyramid. The annual American Therapeutic Recreation Association Conference, Reno, NV.

Jackson, D.N. & Sheslow, D. (2006) Traumatic Victimization: How to identify it and protect yourself. Death and Dying Conference. Al duPont Hospital for Children: Medical Residents Training. Wilmington DE

Jackson, D.N. (2005) Depression, Stress and Parenting: How we affect our children in and out of school. East Side Charter School, Wilmington, DE.

Jackson, D.N., Claussen, A. H., & Acra, C. F. (2003). Internalizing Problems, Perceived Control, & Self-Efficacy among Maltreated Children. Changes over time. Talk presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 11th National Colloquium, Orlando, FL.

Jackson, D.N. (2001) Approaches to Graduate Study in Psychology. Talk presented at Barry University – MBRS, MIRT and MARC Programs, Miami Shores, FL

Conference Presentations:

Berman, B & **Williams, D.J.** (2009). Acceptance of Pain, Values-Driven Behavior, Self-Efficacy and Treatment Adherence in Adolescents with Sickle Cell Disease. Poster presented at Philadelphia Behavior Therapy Association (PBTA), Philadelphia, PA.

Popick, V., Booth, T., Egbert, L., & **Williams, D.J.** (2009). Parent Attitudes Toward Seeking Psychological Services in an Urban Community Mental Health Clinic: Predicting Barriers to Child Treatment. Poster to be presented at the 43rd Annual Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies Convention, New York, NY.

Miller, R.A., Egbert, L.S, **Williams, D.J.** (2009). Development of a School-Based Intervention Program for High-Risk Adolescents. Poster to be presented at the 43rd Annual Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention, New York, New York.

Williams, D. J., Wadman, J, Miller, R., Akins, C., Krishnan, S., Glidden, D., Whitley, A., Regan, J., & Bradley, H. (2008). A Family-Centered Approach to Provide Psycho-Education to Patients with Sickle Cell Disease and their Families. Poster accepted at the annual Sickle Cell Association of America Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Jackson, D. N., Lindahl, K., M., Kaczynski, K. J., & Simons, J. S. (2004). Self-blame and depression among children of coercive and rejecting parents. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.

Kaczynski, K. J., Lindahl, K., M., Malik, N., & **Jackson, D. N.** (2004). Marital Conflict, Parenting and Child Maltreatment: A test of mediation. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.

Jackson, D.N., & Heatherington, L. (2003). Public Attitudes About 'Madness' in Jamaica. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada.

Acra, C. F., Claussen, A. H., & **Jackson, D.N.** (2003). Continuity of Problem Behaviors in Children Prenatally Exposed to Cocaine. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL.

Magyar, M., Claussen, A. H., & **Jackson, D.N.** (2003). A Comparison of Parent and Teacher Reports on Behavior Problems and Adaptive Behavior in Children at Risk. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL.