

#### Connect w/ an APIDA therapist

Asians for Mental Health Directory asiansformentalhealth.com

Anise Health info@anisehealth.co 424-209-2386



Bridges bridgesmentalhealth.com

#### **Community Spaces/Support Groups**

National Alliance on Mental Illness
AAPI Virtual Support Group

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6-7:30pm EST
naminycmetro.org



Apex For Youth
Volunteer and find community
apexforyouth.org
212-385-3574

#### FOR EMERGENCY HELP, CALL

Asian LifeNet Hotline (24 hours) 877-990-858

(Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, and Fujianese are offered)





The Importance Of

# Mental Health & Healing in -APIDA-Communities

**Asian Pacific Islander Desi American** 



Because caring for your mind is strength, not shame.



Mental Health isn't just about mental illness – it's about how we think, feel, and cope with everyday life.



Our cultures see mental health challenges as a sign of *personal* weakness and something to be concealed.

We're taught to stay strong for our families – but strength also means seeking help.

# Understanding Stigma

Higher personal stigma predicts lower help-seeking in APIDA populations

## Why does stigma exist?

- Feeling the need to "save face"
- Fear of burdening the family
- Lack of open dialogue about emotions
- "Model minority" stereotype and pressures to appear "perfect"
- Language and cultural barriers to care

## Its Impact

Studies show that of 1166 US university students, Asian Americans reported the highest levels of distress regarding academics, employment, family, peers, and leisure.



### Healing is Not a Taboo – It's a Tradition!

Healing has always been part of our heritage through meditation, prayer, storytelling, and community care

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Finding support can *compliment* these traditions!

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#### **How to Support One Another**

- Find community in others
- Listen without judgement
- Share your emotions openly
- Continue the conversation about mental health and getting the help you need

When we talk about mental health, we build community, not shame.

# References

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