

Availability of BIPOC Groups in Chicagoland High Schools: Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Overview

This poster provides information regarding the availability of BIPOC affinity and support groups prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic in Chicago metropolitan area high schools. It will present data findings gathered from surveys administered to school social workers and counselors regarding groups offered to high school students with a specific focus on their racial and ethnic identities. This poster will examine the data of groups offered before the pandemic and during the pandemic, and will summarize trends with relation to the racial and ethnic demographics of the high school. Finally, this poster highlights the importance and necessity of creating intentional group spaces for BIPOC students that acknowledge their need for mental health support within the school setting.

Tables

Predominantly White

Groups	Prior All	Prior BIPOC	Post All	Post BIPOC
Anxiety Group	6	1	4	0
Social Skills	3	0	2	0
LGBTQ+	4	1	1	0
Race Group	2	2	1	2
Organization Group/Study Skills	4	0	3	0
Family/Grief	3	1	3	1
Depression	1	0	0	0
New Students/Transfers	2	1	1	0

The table above demonstrates the group therapy/supports that were the most common for schools with predominantly White demographics. Each column represents a question from the survey. The focus is to compare the groups that are offered to all students to those offered for BIPOC students before and after the pandemic. There are 10 schools that are shown in this table. It is clear that the amount of groups offered to all students is higher than those that focus exclusively on the BIPOC cultures. It is also clear that almost every group offered before the pandemic declined after the pandemic. This shows that group supports were not being widely offered after the pandemic, especially to BIPOC students.

Mixed Schools

Groups	Prior All	Prior BIPOC	Post All	Post BIPOC
Anxiety Group	3	2	1	1
LGBTQ+	1	1	1	1
Race Group	0	3	0	2
Organization Group/Study Skills	3	1	1	1
Grief/Loss	3	1	2	1
Depression	0	0	0	0
Mindfulness/ Neuromeditation	3	2	2	1
Substance Abuse	2	1	1	1

The table above demonstrates the group therapy/supports that were the most common for schools with mixed demographics as well as predominantly BIPOC demographics. The researcher decided to combine these two categories for a more comparable comparison to the predominantly White schools. Each column represents a question from the survey. The focus is to compare the groups that are offered to all students to those offered for BIPOC students before and after the pandemic. There are 7 schools that are shown in this table. It is clear that the amount of groups offered to all students is higher than those that focus exclusively on the BIPOC cultures. It is also clear that almost every group offered before the pandemic declined after the pandemic. This shows that group supports were not being widely offered after the pandemic, especially to BIPOC students.

Survey Questions

- 1) To the best of your ability please indicate the demographics of your school. Categories: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, 2 or more
- 2) Please tell us about the support/therapy groups offered through student services at your school PRIOR to the Covid-19 pandemic for ALL students.
- 3) Please tell us about the support/therapy groups offered through student services at your school PRIOR to the Covid-19 pandemic for BIPOC students.
- 4) Please tell us about the support/therapy groups CURRENTLY offered through student services at your school for ALL students.
- 5) Please tell us about the support/therapy groups CURRENTLY offered through student services at your school for BIPOC students.
- 6) In what ways has attendance for ALL students been impacted?
- 7) In what ways has attendance for BIPOC students been impacted?
- 8) What format are you using to run groups for ALL students?
- 9) What format are you using to run groups for BIPOC students?
- 10) If your school is NOT running groups for BIPOC students, please describe the reasons.
- 11) Please tell us what OTHER supports your school has for BIPOC students.

References

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