

CULTURALLY COMPETENT NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING OF PATIENTS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS IN A COMMUNITY-BASED ADULT TREATMENT PROGRAM

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Cognitive, or intellectual impairment, is a hallmark symptom of severe mental illness. Typically, schizophrenics, experience problems in information processing, from assimilating new information to the application of “executive” skills. The purpose of study was to examine aspect of cognitive impairment in persons with severe and persistent mental illness also speed of information processing. Two measures were employed, Trails-A-Trails B Test and the Digit Symbol subtest of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III). As a means of developing a baseline of non-verbal intellectual functioning, the Test of Nonverbal Intelligence-3 (TONI-3) was administered. The participants were all adults (n=36) enrolled in a multicultural adult daycare facility in San Ysidro, California. Data analysis yielded that these patients’ information processing speed was significantly impaired.