Asian Culture
U.S. Census of 2010 Statistics

• Estimate 15 million, representing 5% of the total population
• More than two thirds speak a language other than English at home and about 40% do not speak English “very well”
• Composed of at least 40 distinctive subgroups separated by language, religion and values
• Top subgroups: 3.8 million Asians of Chinese descent in the United States, 2.8 million Asian Indians, 1.7 million Vietnamese, 1.6 million Koreans, and 1.3 million Japanese
Values and Beliefs

• Hierarchical and patriarchal in structure with males and older individuals having a higher status
• Upholding collectivism versus individualism
• Parenting styles tend to be more authoritarian and directive
• High emphasis on academic and career choice
• Displaying strong emotions in public is a sign of weakness or lack of control
Views on Disability

- Consequence of a current behavior or a generational behavior
- Some related emotions: shame, pity, and regret
- “Taking care” of someone is more focused on physically than emotionally
- May try other healing practices
Implications to providing Services

- Underreporting disabilities can limit the production and dissemination of appropriate resources
- Use a professional cultural interpreter
- Be prepared to work the extended family
- Maximizing the use of natural and community-based supports
- Be sensitive to views of self-advocacy and timing of introduction