Growing up in Haiti

- Lots of fun – Neighbors are families
- Story telling & Trivia never get old
- Strong family values, belief/ respect for all
- Integrity – Do no harm/Do no wrong mentality
- Heavy focus on Education
- Born and raised Roman Catholic
- 2 bedroom house – W/MOM & Sister & Cousins
- Both very protective

Father Left to the U.S for a “better life”. Every kid’s dream is to come to America
MAP of Haiti
Earthquake....
Earthquake Facts

- 7.0 magnitude in Port-au-Prince
- 33 aftershocks—ranges from 4.2 to 5.9
- Roads Split—Schools and homes destroyed
- Presidential palace destroyed
- Government agencies destroyed
- Experts estimated up to ¼ million deaths
- At least 3 million Haitian affected
What’s happening in Haiti now?

- People are homeless
- Infectious diseases (Malaria)
- Hunger
- Anger
- Insecurity
- People are tired of sleeping on the streets
- POTENTIAL UPCOMING DISASTER:
  - Hurricane Season
  - Major mudslide
Potential Health Risk Problems

- Infections
- Depression
- Anxiety Disorders
- Self-Esteem
- Disturbed Body Image
- Social Isolation
- PTSD
- Suicide
What does this mean for the Diaspora in the United States?

- Helplessness
- Survival’s guilt
- PTSD
- Anger
- Frustration
- Loss of Faith
- Pressure is on— It also means working overtime to send money
- Stress—anxiety
- Increased responsibilities
What does this mean for us, as current and future healthcare professionals?

- Patients presenting with more challenges
- Extend your assessment a little...
- Be patient!
- Listen!
- Put your cultural sensitivity hat on
- Work Collaboratively with other professionals
- You may be able to make a difference!
Mom’s experience

- Was at her sister’s house when the quake hit
- Her house is flattened to the ground
- Lost all her belongings in the house
- Physically here—but heart is in Haiti
- Survival’s guilt—She didn’t want to leave her sisters and brothers
- PTSD—Flashings—Difficulty sleeping
- Fear of another quake
- She too is homeless