“In Puerto Rico, there are an estimated 150,000 Deaf people, though the number is believed to be much higher since this approximation dates to the 2010 Federal Census (Díaz-Rolón, 2019)”. The Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf population face accessibility challenges when seeking mental health services. In the island there are few psychologists who are prepared to work with this community due to communication barriers since many professionals don’t know sign language. This alone affects their communication skills, education, and their accessibility in finding psychological services. Other challenges that they continuously encounter depend on finding professionals and schools adequately prepared to attend their needs. With our investigation we will help create awareness to overcome all the challenges mentioned above.

This study of needs is made with the purpose of helping children from the deaf community by identifying their needs, struggles, and worries; and creating suggestions on how psychological services can work more efficiently, and consequently learn how these challenges can be overcome. One of the main struggles anticipated is how language barriers affect the effectiveness of psychological services as well as the lack of confidentiality due to parental figures of the children being used as interpreters in settings where interpreters should be incorporated. Language barriers also limit children from having an effective education and from communicating with school counselors, teachers, and social workers. The importance of this study relies on our ability to convey the needs of the child deaf community and make the adjustments and accommodations to provide psychological services more accessible to them. Our investigation will also help create awareness towards deaf community and essential services that don’t accommodate them.

Overall, our intentions with this investigation are to impact our community in a positive way by acknowledging the disparity between hearing and deaf patients and the services available to each. Also, contribute to scholar psychology by providing modifications and suggestions to already implemented treatments, practices and evaluation methods. Additionally, create awareness and invite other academics, and population in general, to take initiatives in favor of making our community an equal environment. Finally, adapt instruments to the deaf community and improve the services offered all around.