

ARCHIVE

THE ARCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

NEWS

Join us at our upcoming February ARCH quarterly meeting on February 18, 2021! ARCH will be co-hosting with SFSU professor, Grace J. Yoo, PhD, to present COVID-19 related research.

Members-only meeting begins at 3:30 PST. Speakers are welcome to join the members-only meeting as guest. Presentations will begin at 4pm PST. Zoom meeting details:

Meeting ID: 965 3721 9260

Password: 289417

Presentations:

- **Dale Dagar Maglalang, PhD, MA, MSW**
Stanford Prevention Research Center
“Stressors and Psychological Distress Among Filipino Americans During COVID-19”
- **Russell Jeung, PhD**
SFSU Asian American Studies Department
“Stopping Anti-Asian Hate during COVID-19”
- **Edith Wen-Chu Chen PhD, Danielle Co MPH, Jamie Prudencio BS, Marijo Pempeña BS, Patricia Sebastian MSW candidate**

CSU Northridge Asian American Studies Department

“Challenges and Lessons Learned from Conducting Focus Group Research on Filipino Americans during Pandemic”

- **Windy Tran, Kiyanna Moheit, Grace J. Yoo PhD, MPH**
SFSU Asian American Studies
“Sewing for Others: Asian American women finding purpose and meaning during the pandemic”

Arnab Mukherjea, DrPH, MPH has been officially named **Chair of the Department of Health Sciences at CSU East Bay**, effective Fall 2021. **Congratulations!**



Jamie Chang, PhD awarded **2020 Distinguished Scholarly Paper Award, American Sociological Association.**

Paper title “Factors Contributing to opioid overdoses from the perspective of people who inject drugs in San Francisco, CA”

Please welcome new ARCH members!



**Elaine Hsieh, PhD RD,
Core Member**

I am a Lecturer in the Department of Nutrition and Public Health at the University of Saint Joseph, and a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. I am involved in creating an

integrative nutritional counseling guide and curriculum for Chinese Americans with type 2 diabetes. I am especially interested in providing culture-centered nutrition counseling and education for the underserved Asian American population.



**Nhung M Le,
DrPH, Core
Member**

I am a Professor and Chair of the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University. My research

focuses on social, cultural, and structural influences on health. My research has contributed to our understanding of how culture, ethnicity, and social class impact the health of Asians and Asian Americans. I have published and presented extensively on issues related to Asian Americans and HIV/AIDS, and cancer, particularly on cancer survivorship. I have worked with and served as an advisory board member addressing the impact of ethnicity on health and health equity.



**Dale Dagar
Maglalang, PhD,
MA, MSW, Core
Member**

I am a T32 NIH/NHLBI postdoctoral research fellow at the Stanford Prevention

Research Center at Stanford University, School of Medicine. My research examines the social, cultural, structural, and systemic (e.g. racism and other forms of oppression) factors that influence the health behaviors of immigrants, care workers, and the Asian American population. I am interested in leveraging mobile health technology and community engaged research to prevent cardiovascular diseases. I earned my BS in Human Development and BA in Asian American Studies at the University of California Davis, MA in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, and MSW and PhD in Social Work at Boston College.



**Supriya Misra,
ScD, Core
Member**

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at San Francisco State

University. My research focuses on mental health inequities among immigrants and ethnic minorities. I use both epidemiologic and qualitative approaches to investigate the roles of discrimination, stigma, and trauma on the onset and experience of mental distress and to promote dignity and justice for those living with mental illness.

RESEARCH

Arnab Mukherjea has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board for the Resource Centers on Minority Aging Research.

One of the key focuses are to address systemic racism, gender discrimination, and power dynamics in the broad public health scientific enterprise. More details here:

<https://rcmar.org/rcmar-national-coordinating-centers-newly-formed-scientist-advisory-board/>

Van Park, UCSF and Stanford researchers, along with community partners received a \$4.8 Million Pilot Grant for a multi-site study on genetics of Alzheimer's Disease in Asian Americans and Asian Canadians.

Project title "Asian Cohort for Alzheimer's Disease (ACAD). For San Francisco Bay Area region, the project will be lead by UCSF and Stanford researchers. For more information: <http://www.acadstudy.org>

Grace J. Yoo awarded a Department of Education AANAPISI Grant.

Grant title "Responsive Education for Access, Community, and Hope (REACH)". The objective of the grant is to improve and expand the institution's capacity to eliminate an equity gap in college access, persistence, and completion. Responsive Education for Access, Community, and Hope (REACH) is a comprehensive set of culturally responsive and equity-minded access, awareness, and financial literacy strategies designed to improve college access, persistence, and completion of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and low-income (LI) students.

ABSTRACT REVIEWS

PREPARED BY VAN TA PARK

September 22, 2020 – January 11, 2021

Selected Abstracts Highlight

- **Kanaya** coauthored a paper discussing the epidemiology of diabetes from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) study
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33216378/>
- **Kanaya** and colleagues evaluated the prevalence and patterns of advanced CAC measures (specific coronary vessel involvement, CAC volume and density) in SA versus other race/ethnicities
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33333344/>
- **Sudhinaraset** et al. assesses the association of DACA on undocumented young adults' engagement with healthcare and depressive symptoms.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33276705/>
- **Young** et al. has a forthcoming open peer commentary in the January edition of the American Journal of Bioethics. It is titled, The Invisibility of Asian Americans in COVID-19 data, reporting and relief. Peer commentary on "Structural racism in the COVID-19 pandemic: Moving forward," M. Sabatello, et al.

[Ann NY Acad Sci](#). 2020 Nov 2. doi: 10.1111/nyas.145302. [Epub ahead of print]

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33216378/>

Epidemiology of diabetes among South Asians in the United States: lessons from the MASALA study

[Gujral UP](#)¹, [Kanaya AM](#)²

Author Information

¹ Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

² Division of General Internal Medicine, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

Abstract

South Asian individuals in the United States are at an increased risk of type 2 diabetes (T2DM); however, the mechanisms behind this are not well understood. The Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) study is the only longitudinal cohort of South Asians in the United States and provides key insights as to the epidemiology of T2DM in South Asians. Evidence from the MASALA study suggests that South Asians experience a disproportionately high burden of prevalent and incident T2DM compared with members of other race/ethnic groups. Higher insulin resistance in South Asians, even with low body mass index (BMI), more impairment in insulin secretion, and greater deposition of ectopic fat likely play a role in T2DM etiology. Furthermore, South Asian migrants to the United States experience a range of factors related to acculturation, social networks, and religious beliefs, which may impact physical activity and dietary practices. Interventions to prevent T2DM in South Asians should include a focus on cultural factors related to health and should consider the complete mechanistic pathway and the relative contributions of insulin resistance, β cell dysfunction, and ectopic fat deposition on T2DM development in South Asians, particularly in those with lower BMI.

KEYWORDS:

BMI; MASALA; South Asian; ethnicity; insulin resistance; the United States; type 2 diabetes

PMID: 33216378 DOI: [10.1111/nyas.14530](https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.14530)

[Atherosclerosis](#). 2021 Jan;317:16-21. doi: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2020.12.003. [Epub ahead of print]

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33333344/>

Distribution of calcium volume, density, number, and type of coronary vessel with calcified plaque in South Asians in the US and other race/ethnic groups: The MASALA and MESA studies

[Al Rifai M¹](#), [Kanaya AM²](#), [Kandula NR³](#), [Cainzos-Achirica M⁴](#), [Patel J⁵](#), [Budoff M⁶](#), [Criqui MH⁷](#), [Blaaha MJ⁴](#), [Virani SS⁸](#)

Author Information

¹Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA.

²Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA.

³Feinberg School of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA; Feinberg School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA.

⁴Division of Cardiovascular Prevention and Wellness, Department of Cardiology, Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, Houston, TX, USA; Center for Outcomes Research, Houston Methodist, Houston, TX, USA.

⁵Heart Center, Division of Cardiology, Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, Richmond, VA, USA.

⁶Division of Cardiology, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, Torrance, CA, USA.

⁷Division of Preventive Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, USA; University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, CA, USA.

⁸Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA; Division of Cardiology, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Section of Cardiovascular Research, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA. Electronic address: virani@bcm.edu.

Abstract

Background and aims: South Asians (SA) experience disproportionately higher rates of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) events than non-Hispanic whites (NHW) and several other Asian groups. The coronary artery calcium (CAC) Agatston score may not capture the unique characteristics of coronary plaque in SA. We therefore evaluated the prevalence and patterns of advanced CAC measures (specific coronary vessel involvement, CAC volume and density) in SA versus other race/ethnicities.

Methods: We combined data from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) and Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) cohorts. We used multivariable-adjusted linear regression models to compare advanced CAC measures between SA and other ethnicities.

Results: Our analyses included 7,625 individuals (810 SA, 2,622 whites, 1,893 African Americans, 1,496 Hispanics, 803 Chinese Americans) with mean (SD) age 62 (10) years and 48% men. In adjusted analyses, compared to NHW, SA had lower overall CAC volume [beta coefficient (95% CI)] [-0.46 (-0.62,-0.29)] but higher overall CAC density [0.14 (0.11,0.18)]. These trends were similar when SA were compared to non-whites (Hispanics, Chinese Americans, and African Americans). SA had higher overall [0.07 (0.03,0.12)] and right coronary artery [0.09 (0.03,0.16)] CAC density compared to non-whites, while CAC volume was not significantly different between these two groups.

Conclusions: SA have lower CAC volume compared to NHW but similar compared to non-whites. Overall CAC density is higher among SA compared to NHW and non-whites. Future longitudinal studies of ASCVD events are required to confirm the prognostic significance of these findings among SA.

PMID: 33333344 DOI: [10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2020.12.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2020.12.003)

[Ethn Health](#). 2020 Dec 4;1-13. doi: 10.1080/13557858.2020.1850647. [Epub ahead of print]

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33276705/>

The Association between Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals, health access, and mental health: the role of discrimination, medical mistrust, and stigma

[Sudhinaraset M](#)^{1,2}, [Ling I](#)², [Gao L](#)¹, [Chavarin J](#)³, [Gee GC](#)¹

Author Information

¹Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

²School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA, USA.

³University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Abstract

Objective: There are approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants in the US, including 1.3 million young adults who are eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. It is unclear how DACA influences engagement in healthcare or depressive symptoms, and the role of discrimination, medical mistrust, and stigma in healthcare settings. This study assesses the association of DACA on undocumented young adults' engagement with health care and depressive symptoms.

Design: We conducted an internet-based survey examining the health-related experiences of undocumented Latino and Asians and Pacific Islander (API) young adults in California ($n = 218$) between June and August 2017. Multivariable logistic regressions were conducted to assess the influence of DACA, discrimination, medical mistrust, and stigma on healthcare engagement and depressive symptoms.

Results: Approximately 78% of respondents had a gap in healthcare, and about 31% reported high levels of depressive symptoms. Controlling for demographic characteristics, compared to those without DACA, DACA-recipients had lower odds of reporting gaps in healthcare engagement (aOR = 0.270, $p < 0.05$) and depressive symptoms (aOR = 0.115, $p < 0.01$). Those facing discrimination, medical mistrust, and stigma in healthcare settings were less likely to have a healthcare visit and more likely to have higher depressive symptoms.

Conclusions: DACA is a potential strategy to improve healthcare access and address the mental health of undocumented populations. In particular, issues of discrimination, stigma by healthcare providers, and medical mistrust need to be addressed.

KEYWORDS:

DACA; Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; Immigration; discrimination; healthcare access; immigrant; medical mistrust; mental health; policies; stigma; undocumented immigration.

PMID: 33276705 DOI: 10.1080/13557858.2020.1850647

Cultur Divers Ethnic Minor Psychol 2020 Oct 1. doi: 10.1037/cdp0000430. Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33001674/>

A person-centered examination of acculturation and psychological functioning among Chinese and Korean immigrant mothers in the United States

[Ren H¹](#), [Cheah CSL¹](#), [Tahseen M¹](#), [Zhou N²](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

²College of Preschool Education, Capital Normal University.

Abstract

Objectives: The present research used a person-centered approach to examine the acculturation styles of Chinese and Korean immigrant mothers in the United States and demographic characteristics and psychological functioning associated with each acculturation style.

Method: The sample comprised 240 first-generation Chinese immigrant mothers (CIMs; $M = 37.80$ years, $SD = 4.55$) and 222 first-generation Korean immigrant mothers (KIMs; $M = 36.00$ years, $SD = 3.69$) of preschool children. Latent profile analysis was used to identify latent acculturation styles among CIMs and KIMs. We further examined whether mothers' acculturation styles were associated with their sociodemographic characteristics and psychological functioning within each cultural group.

Results: Four acculturation styles were revealed among CIMs: (a) behaviorally undifferentiated/psychologically assimilated, (b) behaviorally marginalized/psychologically separated, (c) behaviorally psychologically assimilated, and (d) behaviorally integrated/psychologically undifferentiated. Three acculturation styles were uncovered among KIMs: behaviorally psychologically separated, behaviorally psychologically assimilated, and behaviorally psychologically integrated. Chinese behaviorally integrated/psychologically undifferentiated mothers and Korean behaviorally psychologically separated perceived the highest levels of coethnic concentration in their communities. Chinese behaviorally marginalized/psychologically separated mothers reported poorer psychological functioning than other Chinese mothers. Korean behaviorally psychologically separated mothers had poorer psychological functioning than other Korean mothers.

Conclusions: Findings revealed the significant role of participation in the American mainstream culture for Asian immigrant mothers' psychological adjustment. The heterogeneity in the acculturation experiences of Asian immigrants in the United States was highlighted. (Psychnfo Database Record (c) 2020 APA, all rights reserved).

PMID: 33001674 DOI: 10.1037/cdp0000430

J Health Commun. 2020 Sep 30;1-8. doi: 10.1080/10810730.2020.1822471. Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32997611/>

Promoting Sustained and Exclusive Breastfeeding among Chinese American Pregnant Women

[Bresnahan M¹](#), [Goldbort J²](#), [Zhuang J³](#), [Bogdan-Lovis E⁴](#), [Yan X¹](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Communication, Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

²College of Nursing, Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

³Department of Communication Studies, Texas Christian University , Fort Worth, Texas, USA.

⁴College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

Abstract

This study investigated prenatal goal setting and breastfeeding attitudes and intentions for 210 Chinese American pregnant women. In addition, this study assessed impact of person-centered versus factual messages on breastfeeding attitudes and intentions. While pregnant women reported receiving information about Baby-Friendly designated hospitals from healthcare providers, most received no breastfeeding information from those same providers. Although women had positive attitudes toward breastfeeding, they showed lack of knowledge about colostrum, general approval for using infant formula, as well as early introduction of complementary foods. By extension, these attitudes suggested they misunderstood the meaning of exclusive breastfeeding. No differences were observed based on parity, trimester of pregnancy, level of education or income. Person-centered and factual messages were judged as equally effective messages, but intention to breastfeed was more affected by the factual message. Reasons for this result are discussed. Healthcare providers are positioned to proactively engage in maternal preparedness for exclusive breastfeeding. These results suggested a missed opportunity for healthcare providers to communicate the value of sustained exclusive breastfeeding for the recommended first 6 months of an infant's life and underscore a need for all antenatal healthcare providers to collaboratively ensure that breastfeeding information is comprehensively provided throughout the span of antenatal care.

PMID: 32997611 DOI: 10.1080/10810730.2020.1822471

Aging Ment Health. 2019 Sep;23(9):1113-1121. doi: 10.1080/13607863.2018.1480705. Epub 2018 Dec 6.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30518241/>

Neighborhood social cohesion and cognitive function in U.S. Chinese older adults- findings from the PINE study

[Zhang W¹](#), [Liu S²](#), [Sun F³](#), [Dong X⁴](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawaii.

²Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

³School of Social Work, Michigan State University, East Lansing , Michigan.

⁴Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Abstract

Objectives: The projected increase in the population of older adults in the United States entails a pressing need to examine risk and protective factors associated with cognitive function. This study aims to examine the association between neighborhood social cohesion and cognitive function among older Chinese adults in the United States.

Method: Using the first epidemiological survey of older Chinese Americans and applying ordinary least squares and quantile regressions, this study examines the association between neighborhood social cohesion and various domains of cognitive function.

Results: Results show that neighborhood social cohesion is independently associated with most domains of cognitive function (i.e. global cognition score, and its components such as the Chinese Mini-Mental State Examination and executive function and episodic memory measures).

Conclusion: This study represents one of a few initial efforts that examined the association between neighborhood social cohesion and cognitive function for Chinese older adults in the United States. Our findings suggest that socially cohesive neighborhoods can provide enriched environments where active lifestyles can be encouraged, and cognitive skills and abilities can be stimulated, practiced, and preserved for older adults.

PMID: 30518241 DOI: 10.1080/13607863.2018.1480705

Aging Ment Health. 2019 Sep;23(9):1234-1245. doi: 10.1080/13607863.2018.1484887. Epub 2018 Nov 27.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30482041/>

Cross-cultural comparative study of psychological distress between older Korean immigrants in the United States and older Koreans in South Korea

[Chang M¹](#)

Author Information

¹Center for Multicultural Studies , Daegu Catholic University , Gyeohgsan-si , Republic of Korea.

Abstract

Objective: This study aims to answer questions about the similarities and differences in the prevalence and distribution of psychological distress across these populations.

Methods: Survey data from older Koreans between the ages 60 and 79 from the two countries ($n = 480$) was analyzed descriptively and in hierarchical multiple regressions. The stress coping framework was used as a conceptual model

Results: This study found significantly different prevalence of psychological distress in both countries. About 13% of older Korean immigrants(US) experienced 'severe' psychological distress versus 21% of their counterparts (Korea). Health status and overall financial status were significantly associated with the experience of psychological distress in both countries, while income was not significantly associated with psychological distress. Hierarchical multiple regression revealed significant associations between family relationships and help-seeking behavior among older Korean immigrants in the United States while there were significant associations between social support, social networks and psychological distress among older Koreans in South Korea.

Conclusion: This is the first time that a comparative study has been used to understand psychological distress among older Koreans in both countries. The findings build on prior research on social support and social networks as stress coping buffers, adding a much-needed understanding of how stressors and different types of resources influence psychological distress outcomes.

PMID: 30482041DOI: 10.1080/13607863.2018.1484887

J Am Coll Radiol . 2020 Oct 6;S1546-1440(20)30977-7. doi: 10.1016/j.jacr.2020.09.030. Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33035504/>

Mitigating Asian American Bias and Xenophobia in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic: How You Can Be an Upstander

[Ho CP¹](#), [Chong A²](#), [Narayan A³](#), [Cooke EA⁴](#), [Deng F⁵](#), [Agarwal V⁶](#), [DeBenedictis CM⁷](#), [Deitte LA⁸](#), [Jay AK⁹](#), [Kagetsu NJ¹⁰](#)

Author Information

¹Associate Professor, Program Director Diagnostic Radiology, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Electronic address: christopher.ho@emory.edu.

²Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Clinical Operations, Residency Associate Program Director, Department of Radiology, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California.

³Assistant Professor, Quality & Safety Officer, Division of Breast Imaging, Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of Radiology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

⁴Associate Professor, Department of Radiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁵Resident, Department of Radiology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Fellow, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

⁶Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Education, Department of Radiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

⁷Vice Chair for Education, Director, Radiology Residency Program and Associate Professor of Radiology, University of Massachusetts, Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts.

⁸Vice Chair of Education, Department of Radiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁹Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Education, Department of Radiology, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington District of Columbia.

¹⁰Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Diagnostic, Molecular and Interventional Radiology, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai Health System, New York.

PMID: 33035504 DOI: 10.1016/j.jacr.2020.09.030

J Community Health . 2020 Dec;45(6):1178-1186. doi: 10.1007/s10900-020-00931-8. Epub 2020 Oct 7.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33026553/>

Colorectal Cancer-Related Knowledge, Acculturation, and Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors Among Low-Income Vietnamese Americans in the Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Area

M GX¹²³, Lee M⁴, Zhu L⁴, Tan Y⁴, Do P⁴, Ma X⁴, Tran T⁵, Johnson CK⁶

Author Information

¹Center for Asian Health, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 19140, USA. grace.ma@temple.edu.

²Department of Clinical Sciences, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 19140, USA. grace.ma@temple.edu.

³Fox Chase Cancer Center, Temple Health, Philadelphia, USA. grace.ma@temple.edu.

⁴Center for Asian Health, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 19140, USA.

⁵Asian American Buddhist Association, Philadelphia, PA, 19147, USA.

⁶Center For Cancer Health Disparities Research, Hunter College of the City University of New York, New York, NY, 10065, USA.

Abstract

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second and fourth most common cancer in Vietnamese American women and men, respectively. Recent research has highlighted the importance of modifiable lifestyle behaviors such as smoking, alcohol use, dietary behaviors, and physical activities in CRC prevention for the general population. However, it is not well understood how well Vietnamese Americans knew about CRC prevention and risk factors, and whether there were any disparities in knowledge within this vulnerable population. This study examined whether comprehensive measures of acculturation and knowledge of CRC risk are associated with different health behaviors, specifically physical activity, protective dietary behaviors, and risky dietary behaviors in Vietnamese Americans. We recruited 374 Vietnamese Americans aged 50 or above from community-based organizations in the Vietnamese American communities in the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area. Through a cross-sectional survey, we collected data on their knowledge of CRC prevention and risk factors, acculturation-related factors, and sociodemographic characteristics. We found limited knowledge of CRC prevention and risk factors, and suboptimal physical activity and healthy dietary behaviors in the Vietnamese Americans. We also found that higher levels of knowledge about CRC and risk factors were associated with less unhealthy diets but not with more protective diets or physical activity. Acculturation was not significantly associated with overall dietary behaviors in our study. Our findings addressed gaps in current literature concerning the impact of knowledge about CRC risk factors and acculturation on different dimensions of dietary behaviors as well as physical activity. Research and practical implications were discussed.

PMID: 33026553 DOI: 10.1007/s10900-020-00931-8

Gerontologist 2020 Oct 6;gnaa156. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnaa156. Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33021635/>

Performance of an Abbreviated Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS-6) among Three Ethnic Groups of Older Asian Americans

[Jang Y¹](#), [Powers DA²](#), [Park NS³](#), [Chiriboga DA⁴](#), [Chi I¹](#), [Lubben J⁵](#)

Author Information

¹Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

²Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.

³School of Social Work, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

⁴Department of Child and Family Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

⁵School of Social Work, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Abstract

Background and objectives: The present study examined the measurement quality and performance of an abbreviated Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS-6) in three ethnic groups (Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese) of older Asian Americans, addressing both within- and cross-group validations.

Research design and methods: We selected 605 participants aged 50 or above (242 Chinese, 150 Koreans, 213 Vietnamese) from the 2015 Asian American Quality of Life (AAQoL) survey, conducted with self-identified Asian Americans aged 18 or above living in central Texas. We analyzed LSNS-6 data on measurement qualities (internal consistency and corrected item-total correlation), dimensionality (exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses), and correlations with other indicators.

Results: LSNS-6 showed very good internal consistency in each ethnic group, and the two-factor structure of family and friends were invariant across the groups. The items on friends demonstrated greater homogeneity than those on family and emerged as a first factor. Both subscale and total scores of LSNS-6 were associated in expected directions with the social and health indicators considered.

Discussion and implications: The findings confirm the measurement qualities of LSNS-6 within each group and provide support for measurement invariance across the groups. While the observed difference in family and friend networks warrants further investigation, LSNS-6 serves as a viable option for the assessment of social networks. When using LSNS-6 with older Asian Americans, it is highly recommended to use the family/friend subscales in consideration of cultural and immigration contexts.

PMID: 33021635 DOI: 10.1093/geront/gnaa156

J Am Coll Health 2020 Oct 13;1-7. doi: 10.1080/07448481.2020.1819820. Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33048652/>

Mental health stigma and professional help-seeking behaviors among Asian American and Asian international students

[Maeshima LS¹](#), [Parent MC²](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Educational Psychology, Counselor Education Program, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.

²Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling Psychology Program, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.

Abstract

To examine the relationship between stigma and mental health help-seeking among Asian American and Asian international college students. **Participants:** Asian American college students (401 men, 858 women) and Asian international college students (384 men, 428 women). **Methods:** Data from the 2018-2019 Healthy Minds Study were used to assess perceived stigma, personal stigma, and help-seeking behaviors of college students. **Results:** Personal stigma mediated the relationship between perceived stigma and professional help-seeking intentions. The relationship between perceived stigma and personal stigma differed by international status, such that the relationship between perceived stigma and personal stigma was stronger for Asian international students. The indirect effect between perceived stigma and professional help-seeking via personal stigma also differed by international status. **Conclusions:** These results suggest that, consistent with prior work, stigma impacts help-seeking among Asian college students and international student status affects the strength of the key relationship between perceived stigma and personal stigma.

PMID: 33048652 DOI: 10.1080/07448481.2020.1819820

Let Nature Take Its Course: Cultural Adaptation and Pilot Test of Taoist Cognitive Therapy for Chinese American Immigrants With Generalized Anxiety Disorder

[Chang DF¹](#), [Ng N²](#), [Chen T³](#), [Hung T³](#), [Miao IY⁴](#), [Cao Y⁵](#), [Zhang Y⁵](#)

Author Information

¹Silver School of Social Work, New York University, New York, NY, United States.

²New York City Police Department, New York, NY, United States.

³Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, New York, NY, United States.

⁴Department of Psychology, New School for Social Research, New York, NY, United States.

⁵Mental Health Institute of Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha, China.

Abstract

This report describes initial results from a multi-stage project to manualize and adapt an indigenous therapy, Chinese Taoist Cognitive Psychotherapy (CTCP), for dissemination in the United States context. Study aims were to (a) integrate cultural adaptation and implementation science frameworks to manualize and adapt the original intervention and (b) explore the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of the modified intervention, renamed Taoist Cognitive Therapy (TCT), in a sample of Chinese immigrants with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). Incorporating bottom-up and top-down adaptation approaches, we involved Chinese American clinician stakeholders and experts in Taoist philosophy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and GAD to help identify cultural and contextual barriers and solutions to enhance treatment acceptability and implementation. Five treatment-seeking Chinese American immigrants (average age = 43.2 years) with a primary diagnosis of GAD completed 14-16 sessions of TCT. Two participants also had secondary diagnoses of major depressive disorder. Changes on primary measures of worry and anxiety were assessed for statistical and clinical significance using reliable change indices (RCIs; Jacobson and Truax, 1991) and comparisons to normative data. In this sample of patients with limited prior exposure to Taoism, results found evidence of feasibility and acceptability of the modified intervention, with strong endorsement of Taoist principles at termination. Statistically and clinically significant improvements in anxiety, worry, psychological inflexibility, and emotional avoidance were found only for the participants without comorbid depression. Results suggest that Taoist principles of acceptance and flexible adaptation to natural laws may be helpful to Chinese immigrants coping with anxiety. However, additional treatment modifications may be required to address the low self-efficacy and fatalism expressed among those with comorbid depression.

Patient Educ Couns 2020 Oct 6;S0738-3991(20)30537-1. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2020.10.002.
Online ahead of print.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33097362/>

Patient-provider communication patterns among Asian American immigrant subgroups in New York City

[Phillips S¹](#), [Wyatt LC²](#), [Turner MM³](#), [Trinh-Shevrin C²](#), [Kwon SC⁴](#)

Author Information

¹Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, USA.

²Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA.

³Department of Communication, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA.

⁴Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA. Electronic address: simona.kwon@nyulangone.org.

Abstract

Objectives: Patient-provider communication is essential for patient-centered care, yet Asian American immigrant populations face barriers. We aim to describe: 1) patient-reported communication-related characteristics for 16 disaggregated Asian American subgroups; and 2) the association of patient comprehension of provider communication with socio-demographics, language proficiency and concordance, and perceived cultural sensitivity in this population.

Methods: Descriptive statistics are presented for 1269 Asian American immigrants responding to cross-sectional, venue-sampled surveys conducted in New York City. Logistic regression models examine predictors of low comprehension of provider communication.

Results: Approximately 11% of respondents reported low comprehension of provider communication: lowest among South Asians and highest among Southeast Asians. Eighty-four percent were language-concordant with their provider, 90.1% agreed that their provider understood their background and values, and 16.5% felt their provider looked down on them. Low comprehension of provider communication was significantly associated with Southeast Asian subgroup, less education, limited English proficiency, public health insurance, patient-provider language discordance, and perceived low cultural understanding.

Conclusion: Among our sample, language and cultural sensitivity are associated with comprehension of provider communication.

Practice implications: Strategies improving language access and cultural sensitivity may be important for Asian immigrant patients. These could include interpretation services, bilingual community-based providers, and cultural sensitivity training.

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Stigmatising beliefs about Alzheimer's disease: Findings from the Asian American Quality of Life Survey

[Liang J¹](#), [Jang Y¹](#), [Aranda MP¹](#)

Author Information

¹Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Abstract

Responding to the public health significance of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and lack of information on AD-related issues in Asian Americans, the present study examined the prevalence and predictors of three stigmatising beliefs about AD (beliefs that associate AD with a normal process of ageing, family embarrassment and social avoidance) using a sample of Asian Americans representing diverse ethnic groups (Chinese, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino and other Asians) and a broad age range (18-98). Guided by the Sociocultural Health Belief Model, multivariate regression models of stigmatising beliefs about AD examined the effect of demographic characteristics (age, gender, marital status, education and ethnicity) and immigration and culture-related variables (proportion of life in the U.S., English proficiency and acculturation). Data came from the 2015 Asian American Quality of Life survey (N = 2,609). Results indicate that the prevalence of stigmatising beliefs about AD varied across ethnicities. More than 63% of Vietnamese associated AD with a normal process of ageing, and about 10% of Chinese reported that they would feel embarrassed if their family member had AD. Logistic regression analyses demonstrated that advanced age, male gender, low education and limited English proficiency increased the odds of reporting one or more stigmatising beliefs about AD. The findings suggest varying degrees of AD-related misconceptions and stigmatisation and call attention to the need for culturally sensitive AD education in Asian communities.

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Neighborhood social cohesion and disease prevention in Asian immigrant populations

[Ali SH¹](#), [Y SS²](#), [Wyatt LC²](#), [Misra S¹](#), [Kwon SC²](#), [Trinh-Shevrin C²](#), [Islam NS³](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, New York University School of Global Public Health, New York University, NY, USA.

²Department of Population Health, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York University, New York, NY, USA.

³Department of Population Health, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York University, New York, NY, USA. Electronic address: nadia.islam@nyumc.org.

Abstract

In the United States (US), chronic disease risk factors are highly prevalent among Asian immigrant communities, who also exhibit low health screening rates. Perceived neighborhood social cohesion (NSC) has been associated with preventive healthcare use in the general US population, although it remains unexplored among Asian Americans (AAs). The aim of this study is to evaluate the association between NSC and preventive screening for hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, and depression among East, South and Southeast Asian American (EAA, SAA, SEAA) communities in New York City (NYC) using cross-sectional, locally collected data from 2013 to 2016. NSC was assessed using a 4-question scale to create an additive score between 4 and 16 and was analyzed both as a continuous and categorical variable (High, Medium, and Low tertiles). Recent screening was defined as a check-up within the last year for each of the included health conditions. A one-unit increase in NSC score was associated with increased odds of recent screening for high cholesterol in EAAs (AOR = 1.09, 95%CI:1.00-1.20); for high cholesterol, diabetes, and depression in SAAs (AOR = 1.08, 95%CI:1.00-1.20; AOR = 1.07, 95%CI:1.00-1.15; AOR = 1.15, 95%CI:1.06-1.25); and with high cholesterol among SEAAs (AOR = 1.12, 95%CI:1.00-1.25). Overall, NSC was an important facilitator for preventive screening behaviors for specific conditions in different groups, though was consistently associated with screening for high cholesterol in our sample. Enhancing NSC through family and community-based programming may be one strategy to encourage screening for preventive behaviors, though more research is needed to elucidate a precise mechanism.

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Effects of family health history-based colorectal cancer prevention education among non-adherent Chinese Americans to colorectal cancer screening guidelines

[Wang H¹](#), [Yeh Y¹](#), [Li M²](#), [Ma P³](#), [Kwok O⁴](#), [Chen L⁵](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA.

²Department of Health Sciences, Towson University, Towson, USA.

³Department of Health Promotion & Community Health Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA.

⁴Department of Educational Psychology, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA.

⁵Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA. Electronic address: lacechen@tamu.edu.

Abstract

Objective: This study examined the effects of the first family health history (FHH)-based colorectal cancer (CRC) prevention education on 1) FHH of CRC communication with family members and primary care physicians (PCPs), 2) fecal occult blood test (FOBT) uptake, and 3) CRC preventive lifestyle modifications among 50- to 75-year-old Chinese Americans non-adherent to CRC screening guidelines.

Methods: Using a community-based participatory research approach, we developed and implemented 62 culturally and linguistically appropriate, theory-driven, FHH-based CRC prevention educational workshops across Texas for 344 Chinese Americans (mostly with low education/income) aged 50-75 years who were non-adherent to CRC screening guidelines.

Results: Linear mixed modeling analyses showed that participants' FHH of CRC communication with PCPs and family members significantly increased two-week post-workshop compared to pre-workshop data ($p < 0.001$). Moreover, at two-weeks post-workshop, 91.9 % of participants underwent FOBT. Nevertheless, no significant changes were found in participants' lifestyles.

Conclusion: Our educational workshops successfully increased Chinese Americans' FHH of CRC communication and FOBT uptake. Personalized education with longer follow-ups may be needed in future studies to promote lifestyle changes among Chinese Americans.

Practice implications: Health and public health professionals may adopt our workshop educational materials to provide patient and public CRC prevention education for Chinese Americans.

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Self-stigma and quality of life among Chinese American breast cancer survivors: A serial multiple mediation model

[Chu Q¹](#), [Wong CCY²](#), [Chen L³](#), [Shin LJ³](#), [Chen L⁴](#), [Lu Q^{3,5}](#)

Author Information

¹School of Public Health, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China.

²The College at Brockport, State University of New York, Brockport, New York, USA.

³Department of Health Disparities Research, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA.

⁴Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China.

⁵Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, USA.

Abstract

Objective: Despite the increasing scholarly attention toward self-stigma among Asian breast cancer survivors, research is limited about the underlying psychological mechanisms by which self-stigma may influence quality of life for this population. The present study investigated how self-stigma is associated with quality of life among Chinese American breast cancer survivors by examining the serial mediating effects of concerns about breast cancer, self-efficacy for coping with cancer, and depressive symptoms.

Methods: Chinese American breast cancer survivors (n = 112) completed a questionnaire packet assessing self-stigma related to breast cancer, concerns about breast cancer, self-efficacy for coping with cancer, depressive symptoms, and quality of life. Path analysis was conducted to test the hypothesized serial multiple mediation model.

Results: The hypothesized model was supported: Self-stigma was negatively associated with quality of life through concerns about breast cancer, self-efficacy, and depressive symptoms. After the mediators were controlled for, the direct effect of self-stigma on quality of life was no longer significant.

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that concerns about breast cancer, self-efficacy for coping and depressive symptoms are important pathways through which self-stigma may influence quality of life among Chinese American breast cancer survivors. Healthcare practitioners should be aware of survivors' self-stigma and make efforts to alleviate survivors' excessive cancer concerns, facilitate their self-efficacy, and offer emotional support to improve quality of life for this population. This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

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COVID-19 and Immigrant Essential Workers: Bhutanese and Burmese Refugees in the United States

Zhang M¹, Gurung A², Anglewicz³, Yun K⁴

Author Information

¹5666 Department of Nutrition and Health Science, Ball State University College of Health, Muncie, IN, USA.

²6567 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PolicyLab, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

³25802 Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA.

⁴Division of General Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Abstract

Objectives: Immigrants are believed to be at high risk of infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A leading suspected risk factor is their role in the essential workforce. We aimed to describe COVID-19-related risk factors among Bhutanese and Burmese refugees in the United States.

Methods: We administered an anonymous online survey in May 2020 among community leaders of Bhutanese and Burmese refugees. Using a snowball sampling strategy, we invited community leaders to complete the survey and share the link with others who met inclusion criteria (English proficient, aged ≥ 18 , currently living in the United States). We compared respondents with and without recent COVID-19 and identified risk factors for infection.

Results: Of 218 refugees in 23 states who completed the survey from May 15 through June 1, 2020, fifteen (6.9%) reported infection with COVID-19. Being an essential worker during the pandemic (odds ratio [OR] = 5.25; 95% CI, 1.21-22.78), having an infected family member (OR = 26.92; 95% CI, 5.19-139.75), and being female (OR = 5.63; 95% CI, 1.14-27.82) were risk factors for infection. Among 33 infected family members, 23 (69.7%) were essential workers.

Conclusion: Although we had a small snowball sample, we found that working in essential industries was associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 infection among Bhutanese and Burmese refugees. We call for larger studies that include Asian immigrant subgroups, as well as immediate attention to protecting immigrant essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Health Literacy in Korean Adults and Korean American Immigrants: Implications for Achieving Health Equity

[Chung S¹](#), [Lee HY²](#), [Lee M¹](#), [Chung S¹](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Social Welfare, Graduate School of Social Welfare, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea.

²School of Social Work, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, United States.

Abstract

Health literacy is necessary to understand health information and make appropriate decisions regarding one's health. This study aims to investigate (1) the health literacy level of Korean citizens and Korean American (KA) immigrants in the United States and (2) factors that influence health literacy across three age groups. A quota sampling method was used to collect cross-sectional survey data from 404 Korean participants and 404 KA immigrants. Andersen's behavioral model was used as the theoretical framework for this study. Overall, Korean participants had a higher mean score on health literacy than did the KA immigrants. Only one of predisposing and enabling factors were significant variables influencing health literacy in KA immigrants, while several predisposing, enabling and need factors were significantly associated with health literacy in Korean adults. Our findings indicate that both countries need to have a community-based health literacy educational program that is tailored to each age group.

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Adherence to cultural values and the internalization of sociocultural appearance ideals are associated with exercise dependence symptoms in Asian/Asian American men

[Guidinger C¹](#), [Zhou S¹](#), [Rothhouse K¹](#), [Kelly NR²](#)

Author Information

¹Counseling Psychology and Human Services, University of Oregon, United States of America; The Prevention Science Institute, University of Oregon, United States of America.

²Counseling Psychology and Human Services, University of Oregon, United States of America; The Prevention Science Institute, University of Oregon, United States of America. Electronic address: nicholek@uoregon.edu.

Abstract

This study examined sociocultural correlates of exercise dependence symptoms (EDSX) in young Asian/Asian American men. We hypothesized that greater adherence to Asian cultural values would be positively associated with EDSX and that the internalization of muscularity and thinness appearance ideals would exacerbate this link. Participants included 266 Asian/Asian American men (18-30y, Mage = 24.4 ± 3.6y; MBMI = 24.2 ± 5 kg/m²) enrolled in a larger study examining disordered eating and body image concerns in ethnically/racially diverse young men. Participants completed an online survey that assessed demographics, adherence to Asian values, internalization of muscularity and thinness appearance ideals, and EDSX. After adjusting for BMI, income, education, and presence of a psychiatric diagnosis, a linear regression model indicated that adherence to Asian values was significantly and positively associated with EDSX (B = 12.13, p = .036). Neither internalization of muscularity (p = .812) nor thinness (p = .967) appearance ideals moderated this association. However, independently, both internalization of muscularity (B = 10.93, p < .001) and thinness appearance ideals (B = 7.92, p < .001) were positively associated with EDSX. The current study highlights the importance of considering cultural factors, such as adherence to traditional norms, in our investigations of EDSX in young Asian/Asian American men and the need to develop tailored interventions for young men's disordered eating symptoms. Our data also support the link between sociocultural ideals of attractiveness and young men's excessive exercise behaviors, contributing to a robust body of literature highlighting the problems with a cultural emphasis on specific body sizes and shapes.

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Mental Health of Asian American Older Adults: Contemporary Issues and Future Directions

[Kim G¹](#), [Wang SY²](#), [Park S³](#), [Yun SW⁴](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Psychology, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea.

²Department of Psychology, Misericordia University, Dallas, Pennsylvania.

³Department of Psychology, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

⁴Department of Psychology, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Abstract

Given the increased attention to older Asian Americans due to their increasing numbers in the United States, this article aims to provide a collective appraisal of older Asian American mental health issues by reviewing trends in older Asian American mental health research over the past 2 decades. This review article provides an overview of the current state of mental health and care research on older Asian Americans and vital factors associated with older Asian American mental health and care. We also identify gaps in current research on Asian American mental health issues and propose 5 potential areas for future research into which gerontologists need to put more effort during the next decade. Ways to reduce disparities in mental health and improve the quality of mental health of older Asian Americans are also discussed.

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A human diversity analysis of culture and gender in Asian American men's intimate partner violence perpetration

[Kyler-Yano¹](#), [Mankowski ES¹](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Psychology, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA.

Abstract

This integrative literature review aims to fill the gap in our understanding of the cultural and gendered predictors of intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration by Asian American men. A comprehensive search using PsycINFO returned N = 24 peer-reviewed journal articles that examine Asian American men's IPV perpetration and patriarchal gender role norms and that met inclusion criteria. Patriarchal gender role norms consistently predicted IPV perpetration. However, the associations between acculturation/enculturation and IPV perpetration were less clear. Greater enculturation (Asian cultural identification) was associated with more patriarchal gender role norms while greater acculturation (mainstream US cultural identification) was associated with more masculine gender role strain. Additionally, violence in the family of origin consistently predicted later IPV perpetration as an adult. Results suggest that integrating multiple dimensions of human diversity (e.g., culture, gender, and power) in intersectional models may best explain Asian American men's IPV perpetration.

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The IDF Definition Is Better Suited for Screening Metabolic Syndrome and Estimating Risks of Diabetes in Asian American Adults: Evidence from NHANES 2011-2016

Zhu L¹, Spence C², Yang JW¹, Ma GX¹

Author Information

¹Center for Asian Health, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19140, USA.

²Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA.

Abstract

Objective: extensive effort has been made to better define metabolic syndrome (MetS). Whether current definitions accurately diagnose MetS and predict risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) or diabetes in diverse ethnic groups remains largely unknown. The objective of this study was to compare the prevalence of MetS and risk of CVD and diabetes among Asian American adults using two MetS definitions, one proposed by the Third Report of the National Cholesterol Education Program Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (ATP III) and one by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

Methods: we obtained a nationally representative sample of 2121 Asian American adults in the noninstitutionalized civilian population of the United States from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2011-2016). We computed age-adjusted, gender-specific MetS prevalence and each MetS component using ATP III and IDF definitions.

Results: based on the IDF definition, MetS prevalence was 39.26% among Asian American men and 39.66% among Asian American women included in the study sample. Based on the ATP III definition, MetS prevalence in our sample was 39.38% among men and 36.11% among women. We found good concordance between the IDF and the ATP III definitions in identifying MetS in Asian American adults. Those with MetS defined only by the IDF definition had significantly higher body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference than those with MetS defined only by the ATP III definition. The IDF definition also better predicted elevated fasting insulin.

Conclusions: the IDF definition is more pertinent than the ATP III definition for screening and estimating risk of CVD and diabetes in Asian American adults. Future studies should examine differences in MetS prevalence across Asian ethnic groups to facilitate the development of culturally tailored strategies improve MetS prevention and detection in Asian Americans.

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"Let's Chat": process evaluation of an intergenerational group chat intervention to increase cancer prevention screening among Vietnamese American families

[Duong HT¹](#), [Hopfer S¹](#)

Author Information

¹Department of Health, Society, and Behavior, University of California, Irvine, CA.

Abstract

Vietnamese Americans have a higher rate of cervical and colorectal cancer (CRC) compared to other ethnicities. Increasing CRC screening, Pap testing, and HPV vaccination is critical to preventing disproportionate cancer burden among Vietnamese families. To describe the successes and challenges of implementing a novel intergenerational family group chat intervention that encourages CRC screening, Pap testing, and HPV vaccination. Young adult Family Health Advocates (FHAs) were trained to facilitate online family group chat conversations to encourage cancer screenings. Ten families participated in a 4-week intervention. Data collection included screenshot data of family group chat conversations, family member surveys, and post-intervention FHA interviews. Intervention implementation successes included (a) cultural and language brokering, (b) active co-facilitation by family members to follow up on cancer screenings, (c) high levels of family group chat engagement, (d) high acceptability of intervention among families, and (e) accessibility of intervention curriculum. FHA challenges to implement the intervention included (a) sustaining cancer prevention conversations, (b) comfort with navigating family conversations around cancer screening, (c) relevance for all family members, and (d) missed opportunities for correcting misinformation. Researcher challenges included family recruitment and retention. The intervention made cancer-screening messages more accessible and was well accepted by Vietnamese families. Scaling up the intervention will require (a) training FHAs to monitor family conversations and build confidence in sharing medical accurate messages, (b) segmenting group chats by age and gender, and (c) employing multiple family engagement strategies.

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Help-seeking for mental health services in Asian American college students: an exploratory qualitative study

[Dong H¹](#), [Dai Jane²](#), [Lipson SK³](#), [Curry L⁴](#)

Author Information

¹Yale College, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

²Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

³Department of Health Law Policy and Management, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

⁴Health Policy and Management, Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

Abstract

Objective: To understand how the college environment might influence mental health help-seeking in Asian American undergraduates. **Participants:** Participants were 19 Asian American undergraduates recruited through Facebook. **Methods:** Participants were interviewed about attitudes toward mental health and mental health help-seeking, and thematic analysis with both inductive and deductive codes was used to analyze interview transcripts. **Results:** Several factors specific to the college environment encourage students to seek help: social support provided by peers and by campuses, psychological distance from home, and physical distance from home. However, other Asian American-specific factors discourage students from seeking help, such as cultural factors and stigma surrounding mental health issues. **Conclusions:** The college environment may encourage help-seeking, while Asian American-specific factors may discourage it. Potential interventions based on these findings may increase help-seeking rates by focusing on these encouraging factors in a culturally-sensitive way.

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Essential Engagement as the First Step in Gaining Entrée into the Laotian American Community on Cervical Cancer Screening

[Pravisay-Malmstadt C¹](#), [Nguyen-Truong CKY^{2,3}](#)

Author Information

¹Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in Spokane, United States.

²Washington State University College of Nursing in Vancouver, Vancouver, United States.

³Dr. Connie Kim Yen Nguyen-Truong is the last senior author.

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Efficacy of a Culturally and Linguistically Competent Community Health Coach Intervention for Chinese with Hypertension

[Li WW¹](#), [Lew D²](#), [Quach L¹](#)

Author Information

¹San Francisco State University, United States.

²American Heart Association, United States.

Abstract

Purpose: To develop and pilot test the efficacy of a culturally and linguistically sensitive, community health coach (CHC)-based intervention in Chinese immigrants in improving blood pressure control and medication adherence. **Design:** This study was conducted in 2017 with a cross-sectional design ($n = 23$). A CHC intervention was implemented using one 25-minute group educational presentation plus one 10-minute question and answer session at baseline, followed by four, 10-minute bi-weekly group question-and-answer sessions. **Findings:** There was a significant reduction in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure from baseline to week 8: Systolic BP $-17.33 (\pm 11.32)$ ($p < 0.005$) and diastolic BP $-9.58 (\pm 6.57)$ ($p < 0.005$). The mean score for medication adherence was $10.56 (\pm 3.24)$ (possible range 3-15) at baseline and there was no significant change at week 8 (mean 10.89 ± 3.95) ($p = 0.86$). **Conclusion:** The CHC-based hypertension management program showed significant reductions in both systolic and diastolic blood pressures in Chinese immigrants. Since the proposed CHC-based hypertension management program is low cost and easy to establish, further investigation is recommended to generate more results for comparison. **Practice Implications:** There is potential for the CHC intervention to be implemented in clinical settings to help Chinese immigrants at large achieve optimal blood pressure control.

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Why public health framing matters: An experimental study of the effects of COVID-19 framing on prejudice and xenophobia in the United States

[Dhanani LY¹](#), [Franz B²](#)

Author Information

¹Ohio University, Department of Psychology, 22 Richland Ave, Athens, OH 45701, USA. Electronic address: dhanani@ohio.edu.

²Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Department of Social Medicine, Athens, OH 45701, USA. Electronic address: franzb@ohio.edu.

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a notable increase in the expression of prejudicial and xenophobic attitudes that threaten the wellbeing of minority groups and contribute to the overall public health toll of the virus. However, while there is evidence documenting the growth in discrimination and xenophobia, little is known about how the COVID-19 outbreak is activating the expression of such negative attitudes. The goal of the current paper therefore was to investigate what aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic may be contributing to this rise in expressions of prejudice and xenophobia. More specifically, this study used an experimental design to assess the effects of using stigmatized language to describe the virus as well as the threat to physical health and economic wellbeing posed by the virus on COVID-19 prejudice. Data were collected from a national sample of 1451 adults residing within the United States. Results from 2 × 2 × 2 between-subjects analyses of covariance demonstrated that emphasizing the connection between China and COVID-19, rather than framing the virus neutrally, increased negative attitudes toward Asian Americans, beliefs that resources should be prioritized for Americans rather than immigrants, and general xenophobia. Emphasizing the severity of the economic impact of the virus also increased beliefs that Asian Americans are a threat to resources and general xenophobia. In contrast, messages which emphasized the serious health risks of COVID-19 did not increase bias toward Asian Americans or xenophobia. Our findings suggest that specific types of public health messaging related to infectious diseases, especially framing the virus in terms of its country of origin or its likely economic impact, may elicit prejudice and xenophobia. Public health campaigns that emphasize the severity of the virus, however, are not likely to trigger the same negative attitudes. Implications for public health responses to health crises are discussed.

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E-cigarette use among Asian Americans: a systematic review

[Shi M¹](#), [Gette JA¹](#), [Gissandaner TD¹](#), [Cooke JT¹](#), [Littlefield AK¹](#)

Author Information

¹Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA.

Abstract

The use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) has been rising among adolescents and adults in the United States, including among Asian Americans. However, despite being one of the largest racial/ethnic minority groups, the specific trends and patterns of e-cigarette use among Asian Americans are understudied and unclear. This review aimed to summarize relevant information in the last two decades. This systematic review followed the *a priori* guide outlined by the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) statement. Articles were gathered from PsycINFO, PubMed, Sage Journals Online, ScienceDirect, and SpringerLink. Forty articles were reviewed and analyzed. Most articles reviewed only reported on the prevalence rate of e-cigarettes among Asian Americans and indicated regional differences. Results noted between- and within-group differences among racial/ethnic groups that warrant further examination. There is a dearth of information regarding health outcomes and correlates or predictors of e-cigarette use among Asian Americans. Despite its popularity and prevalence among Asian Americans, the use of e-cigarettes and related factors or outcomes deserves more nuanced studies and analyses. It is important to delineate subgroup differences by adjusting study designs and data analytic methods to glean meaningful information regarding Asian American's e-cigarette use in the future.

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Self-rated health as a mediator between physical health conditions and depressive symptoms in older Chinese and Korean Americans

[Jang Y¹](#), [Yoon H²](#), [Li M^{3,4}](#), [Park NS⁵](#), [Chiriboga DA⁶](#), [Wu B⁷](#), [Dong X³](#), [Kim MT⁸](#)

Author Information

¹Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, United States of America.

²School of Social Work, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, United States of America.

³Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America.

⁴School of Nursing, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America.

⁵School of Social Work, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States of America.

⁶Department of Child and Family Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States of America.

⁷Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York University, New York, New York, United States of America.

⁸School of Nursing, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States of America.

Abstract

In the present study, we examined self-rated health as a mediator between physical health conditions (chronic diseases and functional disability) and depressive symptoms in older Chinese and Korean Americans. Using harmonized data (N = 5,063) from the Population Study of Chinese Elderly (PINE) and the Study of Older Korean Americans (SOKA), we tested direct and indirect effect models. In both groups, chronic diseases and functional disability were closely associated with negative ratings of health and symptoms of depression. Analyses with the PROCESS macro showed that the effect of chronic diseases and functional disability on depressive symptoms was mediated by self-rated health in both groups; the indirect effect was greater in the Korean American sample than in the Chinese American sample. These findings contribute to the understanding of the psychological mechanisms that underlie the mind-body connection and highlight the potential importance of subjective health assessment as a useful tool for health promotion.

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Test to Protect Family and Self-A Hepatitis B Screening and Care-Linkage Initiative in the Coastal Mississippi Vietnamese Community

[Funchess TT](#), [Fastring D](#), [Sutton V](#), [Walker V](#), [Le D](#)

Abstract

Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent less than 5% of the U.S. population, they represent approximately half of all people living with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson counties are home to the largest portion of Vietnamese individuals in Mississippi, and have high prevalence rates of HBV. Most people living with HBV do not know they are infected. In 2015, Mississippi State Department of Health began a five-year initiative to implement system-level, evidence-based, community-informed strategies to address HBV in the Vietnamese population of Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson Counties of Mississippi's Gulf Coast region. Presented are results from focus groups conducted with the Vietnamese population that define health issues affecting the Vietnamese community, health care services availability, and knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes regarding HBV and screening. Findings from the focus groups were used to develop a culturally and linguistically tailored HBV screening and care-linkage initiative for the prioritized population.

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Racial disparities among Asian Americans with atrial fibrillation: An analysis from the NCDR® PINNACLE Registry

[Gu K¹](#), [Mahta D²](#), [Kanerla A³](#), [Sharedalal P⁴](#), [Dennis B¹](#), [Song Y⁵](#), [Xin W⁶](#), [Khalid U⁷](#), [Hess P⁸](#), [Cho SH⁹](#), [Virani SS¹⁰](#)

Author Information

¹Division of Cardiology, Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada.

²Health Policy, Quality & Informatics Program, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Health Services Research & Development Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety, Houston, TX, United States of America; Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, United States of America.

³Division of Cardiology, Christiana Care, Newark, DE, United States of America.

⁴Division of Cardiology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY, United States of America.

⁵Baim Institute for Clinical Research, Boston, MA, United States of America.

⁶Division of Cardiology, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond, VA, United States of America.

⁷Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, United States of America; Section of Cardiology, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Houston, TX, United States of America.

⁸Division of Cardiology, University of Colorado, Denver, CO, United States of America.

⁹Division of Cardiology, Sidney Kimmel Medical College Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, United States of America.

¹⁰Health Policy, Quality & Informatics Program, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Health Services Research & Development Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety, Houston, TX, United States of America; Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, United States of America; Section of Cardiovascular Research, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, United States of America; Section of Cardiology, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Houston, TX, United States of America. Electronic address: virani@bcm.edu.

Abstract

Background: There is paucity of data on Atrial Fibrillation (AF) management and associated clinical outcomes among Asian Americans. This study sought to investigate baseline risk factor profiles, racial disparities in clinical management and adverse clinical outcomes among White and Asian Americans.

Methods: We used National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR®) Practice Innovation and Clinical Excellence (PINNACLE) registry and linked Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services data to identify Asian and White patients with AF between January 1, 2013-June 30, 2018. We compared rates of baseline risk factors, management strategies (rate versus rhythm control), anticoagulation use and rates of adverse events between racial groups. The two race groups

were compared using hierarchical multivariable adjusted regression models to account for site and confounders.

Results: In total, 1,359,827 patients (18,793 Asians and 1,341,034 Whites) were included in our analysis. Compared to White Americans, Asian Americans were more likely to use a rate control strategy (Odds Ratio [OR]: 1.20, 95% Confidence Interval [CI]: 1.15-1.25) and lower odds of rhythm control strategy (atrial ablations, cardioversions, or use of antiarrhythmic drugs) (OR: 0.83, 95% CI: 0.80-0.87) in adjusted analysis. Use of oral anticoagulants and direct oral anticoagulants were similar. There were no significant race-based differences in likelihood of all-cause mortality, stroke, and bleeding requiring hospitalization. Analyses performed using propensity score matching were consistent with the main results.

Conclusions: Asian Americans with AF have a lower likelihood of being managed with rhythm control strategies. Overall use of OAC and AF related adverse events remain similar between the two racial groups.

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Perceptions of Cervical Cancer and Screening Behavior among Cambodian and Lao Women in the United States: An Exploratory, Mixed-Methods Study

[Kue J](#), [Szalacha LA](#), [Beth-Happ M](#), [Menon U](#)

Abstract

This concurrent mixed method study examined barriers to cervical cancer screening (CCS) among Cambodian and Lao women and mother-daughter communication about women's health, cervical cancer, and screening. We conducted seven focus groups with purposeful samples of Cambodian and Lao women in the Midwest. The participants completed a survey on health characteristics and attitudes about CCS. Focus group data were analyzed using content analysis, and survey data were analyzed calculating descriptive statistics and bivariate hypothesis testing. Predominantly, women spoke about modesty, privacy, and screening only if symptoms were present. More Lao than Cambodian women reported having ever had a Pap smear, significantly higher knowledge about, and greater positive support for completing Pap smears from health providers, family, and friends. Results show cultural similarities among mothers and daughters in communication about women's health, but cultural and generational differences in knowledge, intent, and beliefs about cervical cancer and screening.

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