Recruitment Approaches and Considerations for Reaching Asian American Caregivers of People With Dementia: A Scoping Review

Eunjung Ko[1], Jia Yin Ruan[1], I Tek Leong[1,2], Xiang Qi[1], Ju Hye Jung[1], Jin Su[1], Feitong Zhang[3], Bei Wu[4]

[1]Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York University, New York, NY, USA [2]Silver School of Social Work, New York University, New York, NY, USA
[3]Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA [4]College of Arts & Sciences, New York University Shanghai, Shanghai, China

NYU NURSING

Research with Asian American caregivers of people with dementia needs to employ culturally tailored, trust-based, community-engaged recruitment strategies to improve participation and representation.

Introduction

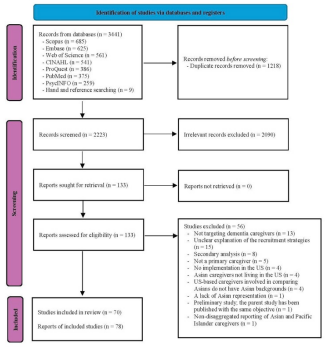
- Asian Americans are rapidly growing and highly diverse, with increasing dementia-related risk and needs.
- Cultural and subgroup differences may influence recruitment and participation among Asian American caregivers of people with dementia (PWD).
- **Little is known about recruitment approaches** for Asian American caregivers of PWD across diverse ethnic subgroups.

Aims

- To **synthesize recruitment approaches, challenges, and strategies** reported in studies involving Asian American caregivers of PWD, with **a particular focus on subgroup-specific strategies**.

Methods

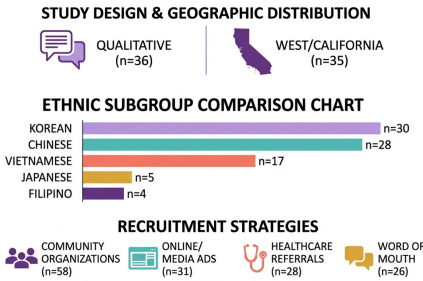
- **Scoping review** with narrative summary and **qualitative content analysis**.[1]
- **Inclusion criteria**:
  1) Conducted in the U.S.
  2) Focused on the unpaid PWD caregivers.
  3) Targeted caregivers of Asian background.
  4) Included ≥5% Asian Americans in the sample.
  5) Written in English.
- **Databases**: PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science, ProQuest, Google Scholar, and reference searching.
- **Figure 1**. PRISMA Flow Diagram.[2]



Source: Page MJ, et al. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71 [118]. This work is licensed under CC BY 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Results

- **78** articles from the **70 unique studies**

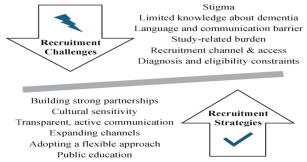


- **Table 1**. Distribution of Recruitment Methods by Study Designs and Asian Subgroups (n=70)

Recruitment Methods by Types of Studies	Community organizations and centers	Online and media advertisements	Referrals from non-professionals/snowball (word of mouth)	Clinics/health professional referrals	Religious facilities	Research registries/ databases	Events and outreach	Caregiver support groups	Direct contact (prior lists/previous studies)
Study methodology									
Mixed methods (N=8)	7	6	4	5	0	2	1	2	0
Qualitative (N=36)	30	13	14	11	4	4	1	3	3
Quantitative (N=22)	19	10	7	10	4	3	4	2	2
Others (N=2)	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	0
Intervention vs. non-intervention									
Intervention studies (N=14)	11	12	6	12	2	3	6	1	0
Observational studies (N=52)	47	19	20	16	8	7	2	6	5
Distribution of Recruitment Methods by Asian Subgroups									
Korean (N=30)	27	15	10	10	8	5	3	1	2
Chinese (N=28)	20	16	8	11	2	7	3	2	2
Vietnamese (N=17)	15	5	11	5	1	2	3	3	1
Japanese (N=5)	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	1
Filipino (N=4)	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Asian Indian (N=2)	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Others (Pakistani, Thai, Lebanese) (N=3)	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not disaggregated (N=6)	1	2	2	4	0	2	1	2	2

Notes. * An unknown recruitment strategy addressed in one study (Ta Park et al., 2019) was not included in the table.

- **Figure 2.** Challenges and Strategies Reported in the Included Studies (n=21)



Discussions

- Most studies were cross-sectional, causing limited evidence on recruitment and retention strategies for longitudinal or intervention studies.
- Some subgroups (e.g., Asian Indian, Filipino, and Japanese caregivers) remain overlooked, although they make up large parts of the Asian American population.
- While community organizations were the strongest recruitment channel across subgroups, some subgroup-specific patterns were observed.
- Future research should use subgroup-specific, culturally and linguistically tailored strategies to improve equitable participation and representation.

Acknowledgment

- No conflict of interest. We want to acknowledge the contributions of Brynne Campbell Rice, a librarian at New York University, for her assistance with this review.
- This study was supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (grant number P50MD017356). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

References

1. Pollock, D., Evans, C., Menghao Jia, R., Alexander, L., Pieper, D., Brandão De Moraes, É., Peters, M. D. J., Tricco, A. C., Khalil, H., Godfrey, C. M., Saran, A., Campbell, F., & Munn, Z. (2024). "How-to": Scoping review? Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, 176, 111572. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111572
2. Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., Altman, D. G., & PRISMA Group. (2009). Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement. *Annals of Internal Medicine, 151*(4), 264–269. https://doi.org/10.7326/0003-4819-151-4-200908180-00135
3. Ko, E., Ruan, J. Y., Leong, I. T., Qi, X., Su, J., Jung, J. H., Zhang, F., & Wu, B. (2025). Recruitment strategies, challenges, and gaps in reaching Asian American dementia caregivers: A scoping review. [Under review]. Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York University.