

Partnering with Bilingual Caseworker-Cultural Mediators to Engage Vietnamese Older Adults with Memory Concerns in Dementia Research

✉ Kris Pui Kwan Ma, PhD¹, Kim Lundgreen², Asmeret Tesfalem, MSN², Angella Kim, MPH³, Jacqueline Raetz, MD¹, Annette L. Fitzpatrick, PhD¹, & Kari A. Stephens, PhD¹

¹Family Medicine, University of Washington; ²Community House Calls, Interpreter Services Department, Harborview Medical Center, ³Health Systems & Population Health, University of Washington

Background

- Older Vietnamese Americans are underrepresented in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) research.¹
- Language, stigma, mistrust, and research design-related barriers hinder Vietnamese participation in ADRD studies.^{2,3}
- Caseworker-Cultural Mediators (CCMs) are vital for facilitating research engagement.⁴

Objective

- To describe CCM's contributions and highlight the culturally tailored strategies we used to engage older Vietnamese immigrants in the U.S. in a dementia study.
- The study aims to develop a brain health conversation toolkit for older Vietnamese and primary care clinicians to improve early detection of cognitive impairments.

Caseworker-Cultural Mediators

- We partnered with the bilingual (Vietnamese) caseworker-cultural mediators within Harborview Medical Center's Community House Calls Program.🔗
- CCMs provide interpretation, case management, health education, navigation, mediation and advocacy services to patients with limited English proficiency, and serve as liaisons between health systems and their communities.

Discussion

Early and equal partnerships with CCMs drive successful study implementation and create a scalable, sustainable model for inclusive dementia research.

References: 1. Meyer OL, et al. *Alzheimers Dement* (N Y). 2023;9(2):e12392. 2. Peavy GM, et al. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord*. 2024;38(3):277-284. 3. Rirash AF, et al. *J Prev Alzheimers Dis*. 2026;13(6):100557. 4. Sharma RK, Cowan A, Gill H, Miyagawa LA. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2023;38(5):1190-1199.

Key Contributions from CCM & Culturally Tailored Engagement Strategies



Co-design

The research team and Vietnamese CCM co-designed the study and recruitment activities from project inception.



Community Bonding

Invited research team to join community gatherings with local Vietnamese senior groups to build relationships and trust.



Champion Research

Introduced research team members to the older Vietnamese communities and explained the importance of the study.



Recruitment

Planned and facilitated study recruitment and data collection at community centers where older Vietnamese regularly meet.



Cultural Interpretation

Suggested language to use when discussing dementia with Vietnamese communities in a respectful, less stigmatizing way.



Dissemination

Held community meetings to introduce dementia research and share research findings

Results



40

Completed Vietnamese focus groups and share their lived experiences



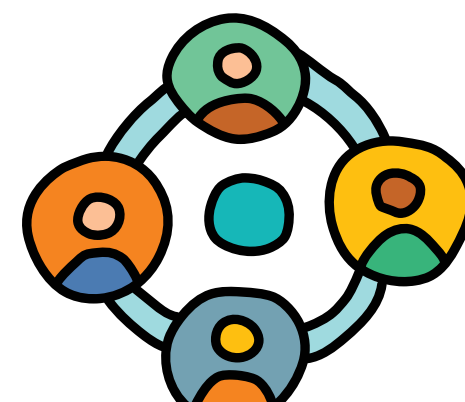
60

Attended two workshops co-organized with Dementia Friends



92%

Reported satisfaction with the workshop



10

Formed community and patient advisory boards to co-design the intervention

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