



Abstract

Title: [Association of Self-Reported Discrimination and Suicide Ideation in Older Chinese Americans.](#)

Authors: [Li LW](#)¹, [Gee GC](#)², [Dong X](#)³.

Author Information:

1. School of Social Work, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Electronic address: lydiali@umich.edu.
2. Department of Community Health Sciences, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
3. Department of Internal Medicine, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL.

Publication: [Am J Geriatr Psychiatry](#). 2017 Aug 17. pii: S1064-7481(17)30421-9. doi: 10.1016/j.jagp.2017.08.006. [Epub ahead of print]

Abstract:

OBJECTIVE:

This study examines racial discrimination as a potential novel risk factor for suicide ideation among older Chinese Americans.

DESIGN:

In a cross-sectional analysis, this study drew on data collected in the Population-based Study of Chinese Elderly in Chicago on Chinese older adults age 60 + in the Greater Chicago area (N = 3,157). Thirty-day suicide ideation was a dichotomous variable, derived from items of the Physical Health Questionnaire and the Geriatric Mental State Examination-Version A. Self-reported discrimination was dichotomously coded, based on the Experiences of Discrimination instrument, which asks respondents whether they have ever experienced discrimination in nine situations because of their race/ethnicity/color.

RESULTS:

About 4.1% of the sample reported 30-day suicide ideation and 21.5% reported discrimination. Self-reported discrimination was significantly associated with suicide ideation before and after adjusting for covariates including sociodemographic characteristics; neuroticism; social relationships; and physical, cognitive and mental health. In the fully adjusted model, those who reported discrimination had 1.9 times higher odds (OR: 1.9; 95% CI: 1.18-3.08; Wald $\chi^2 = 6.9$, df = 1, p = 0.01) of suicide ideation than those who did not.

CONCLUSION:

Chinese American seniors who reported discrimination had an almost twofold greater odds of 30-day suicide ideation compared with those who did not. Clinicians need to recognize the impact of discrimination on ethnic minority elders. For those who report experiencing discrimination, assessment of suicide risk may be necessary. Efforts to promote civil rights and reduce discrimination may also be a form of primary prevention of suicide.