

Asian American Research Center on Health

ARCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2020

NEWS

ARCH Session at APHA 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting.

The ARCH session at APHA's Virtual Annual Meeting is now public. Alice Guan, Jasmin Woo, Arnab Mukherjea, Isabel Van Nguyen, and Van Ta Park will be presenting. This will take place on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 2-3:30 PM PST. For more details, please visit:

https://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/meeting app.cgi/Session/60221





Public Health Resources

Center for Climate, Health and Equity

The center is helping the public health community address the critical issue of climate change.

ARCH Member Thu T Nguyen's Research was Featured in an Op-Ed Published in the Chicago Tribune.

In an opinion piece discussing racism, Julie Morita speaks about the increased racism targeting Asian Americans, which features preliminary analyses from Thu T Nguyen's Twitter observational study. Op-Ed link is here:

https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-opinion-coronavirus-asian-americans-morita-20200420-ep3bmn3tincczfihw3qvl64boa-story.html

PUBLICATIONS

From ARCH Members:

 ARCH members, Brandon Yan, Fiona Ng, Janet Chu, Janice Tsoh and Tung Nguyen recently published in Health Affairs addressing high COVID-19 fatality rates among the Asian American population.

https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20200708.894552/full/?fbclid=lwAR0ccW2TuaOJcsVhddfmM18Z9Jg5R-GE81SVnRFTqQf2VodZLe2x7BijDrk&#.XwyMHH5BJoE.twitter

	Exhibit 1.	Cases a	nd death	s among	Asian	Americans	compared	to the	overall population.
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State/County	Percent of Cases (Asian)	Percent of Deaths (Asian)	# of Deaths (Asian)	Case Fatality (Asian)	Case Fatality (Overall)	of Pop Asian
California	7.0 percent	15.0 percent	855	8.4 percent	2.6 percent	15.3 percent
New Jersey	5.1 percent	5.6 percent	724	13.9 percent	7.7 percent	10.0 percent
Washington	6.0 percent	9.0 percent	112	7.8 percent	3.9 percent	9.3 percent
Nevada*	8.2 percent	15.4 percent	75	7.3 percent	2.5 percent	8.7 percent
Massachusetts*	2.1 percent	2.6 percent	211	9.2 percent	7.4 percent	7.1 percent
Illinois	2.9 percent	4.7 percent	327	7.8 percent	4.8 percent	5.9 percent
Santa Clara County, CA	15.1 percent	33.3 percent	53	7.4 percent	3.3 percent	38.3 percent
San Francisco County, CA	11.7 percent	46.0 percent	23	5.2 percent	1.3 percent	34.1 percent
Los Angeles County, CA	3.8 percent	16.4 percent	529	13.6 percent	3.2 percent	15.4 percent
New York City ^a	3.9 percent	7.6 percent ^b	1419 ⁵	17.1 percent ^b	8.7 percent ^b	13.9 percent
Clark County, NV*	6.5 percent	16.8 percent	73	6.6 percent	2.6 percent	10.4 percent
Chicago, IL ^a	2.7 percent	4.6 percent	119	10.4 percent	5.0 percent	6.4 percent
Missing Data						
Hawaii	29.9 percent	NR	NR	NR	1.9 percent	37.6 percent
New York* (excluding NYC)	NR	4.0 percent	265	NR	3.5 percent	4.0 percent

⁽excluding NYC)

Valuans reflect combined Asian American and Pacific Islander data.

Beflects confirmed deaths (NY). An additional 4,607 probable deaths, including 410 among Asian, are not included.

Notes: NR* on Ceptored. Asian case and death proportions are taken over the total, which includes counts from unknown race. Actual proportions are likely higher. Data were accessed July 3-5, 2020 at the state or local government's public websites.

ABSTRACT REVIEWS PREPARED BY VAN TA PARK

March 31, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Selected Abstracts Highlight

- Janice Tsoh co-authored a paper examining individual and neighborhood differences in the intention to quit smoking in Asian American male smokers. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32226728
- Van Ta Park co-authored a paper examining the perspectives on precision health among racial/ethnic minority communities and the physicians that serve them. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32269455
- Alka Kanaya co-authored a paper examining whether strength of traditional cultural beliefs and practices, a robust measure of acculturation, affects diet pattern among South Asians in America. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32358772
- Jane Jih reports on a cluster randomized controlled trial of a lay health worker intervention to increase HEPA among Vietnamese Americans with other ARCH members. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32352912
- Alka Kanaya co-authored a paper examining association between five neighborhood factors and physical activity behaviors in a community-based cohort of South Asian Americans.
 Data were from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) Study 2010-2013 (n = 906). https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32418001/
- Susan Ivey co-authored a paper examining the attitudes and cultural, religious and gender barriers South Asian Muslims have towards colorectal cancer screening. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32279246/
- Thu Nguyen examined Twitter tweets containing at least one race-related term from June 2015-December 2017. Tweets were merged with birth data of that year. It was found that poor birth outcomes was associated with negative social context relating to race. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32298232/
- Arnab Mukherjea et al. is currently in press for the *Topics in Language Disorders*. The
 paper, A Human Rights Perspective on Palliative Care: Unraveling Disparities and
 Determinants among Asian American Populations, examines palliative care in the Asian
 American population to understand if unique considerations are taken during end-of-life
 care.

Prev Med Rep. 2020 Feb 11;18:101064.doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2020.101064. eCollection 2020 Jun.

Disentangling individual and neighborhood differences in the intention to quit smoking in Asian American male smokers

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32226728

<u>Vyas P1</u>, <u>Tsoh JY2</u>, <u>Gildengorin G</u>3, <u>Stewart S</u>L4, <u>Yu E2</u>, <u>Guan A</u>2, <u>Pham A</u>2, <u>Burke NJ</u>6, <u>McPhee SJ3</u>.

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Abstract

Numerous studies have assessed individual-level factors associated with intention to guit smoking. However, fewer studies have assessed how neighborhood and built environment also contribute towards individual-level behavior. We used baseline data of 340 Chinese and Vietnamese male daily smokers from August 2015 to November 2017 living in the San Francisco Bay Area, who enrolled in a lifestyle intervention trial. The outcome variable was intention to guit in 30 days. To understand the role of contextual factors participants' residential addresses were geocoded, and neighborhood median income, ethnic composition, and tobacco retail density were computed. Individual level analysis suggested that Vietnamese American men had greater intention to quit smoking (OR = 2.90 CI = 1.59, 5.26) in comparison to Chinese Americans. However, after adding neighborhood level factors to the model, no ethnic group difference was observed. Neighborhood household median income (OR = 0.74, CI = 0.64, 0.86) and tobacco retail counts (OR = 0.79, CI = 0.67, 0.94) were negatively associated with intention to quit. Years lived in the U.S. was the only individual level factor associated with intention to quit. By comparing two Asian American groups that live in heterogeneous neighborhoods, we identify key environmental and policy drivers that are associated with guit intention. Future studies aimed at influencing individual-level behavior should take into consideration the neighborhood context and built environment characteristics.

KEYWORDS:

Asian Americans; Geographic variation; Neighborhood characteristics; Tobacco retailers; Tobacco use.

PMID: 32226728 DOI: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2020.101064

Ethn Dis. 2020 Apr 2;30(Suppl 1):137-148. doi: 10.18865/ed.30.S1.137. eCollection 2020.

Perspectives on Precision Health Among Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities and the Physicians That Serve Them

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32269455

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Abstract

Background: In order for precision health to address health disparities, engagement of diverse racial/ethnic minority communities and the physicians that serve them is critical.

Methods: A community-based participatory research approach with mixed methods was employed to gain a deeper understanding of precision health research and practice among American Indian, African American, Latino, Chinese, and Vietnamese groups and physicians that serve these communities. A survey assessed demographics and opinions of precision health, genetic testing, and precision health research. Focus groups (n=12) with each racial/ethnic minority group and physicians further explored attitudes about these topics.

Results: One hundred community members (American Indian [n=17], African American [n=13], Chinese [n=17], Latino [n=27], and Vietnamese [n=26]) and 14 physicians completed the survey and participated in the focus groups. Familiarity with precision health was low among community members and high among physicians. Most groups were enthusiastic about the approach, especially if it considered influences on health in addition to genes (eg, environmental, behavioral, social factors). Significant concerns were expressed by African American and American Indian participants about precision health practice and research based on past abuses in biomedical research. In addition, physician and community members shared concerns such as security and confidentiality of genetic information, cost and affordability of genetic tests and precision medicine, discrimination and disparities, distrust of medical and research and pharmaceutical institutions, language barriers, and physician's specialty.

Conclusions: Engagement of racial/ethnic minority communities and the providers who serve them is important for advancing a precision health approach to addressing health disparities.

KEYWORDS:

Focus Groups; Genetic Testing; Health Disparities; Precision Heath; Precision Medicine.

PMID: 32269455 DOI: 10.18865/ed.30.S1.137

J Immigr Minor Health. 2020 May 1. doi: 10.1007/s10903-020-01016-3. Online ahead of print.

Acculturation is Associated with Dietary Patterns in South Asians in America

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Abstract

Acculturation may influence diet pattern, a risk factor for cardiometabolic disease. We assessed whether strength of traditional cultural beliefs and practices, a robust measure of acculturation, affects diet pattern among South Asians in America. With data from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) cohort, we used ordinal logistic regression to assess the association between strength of traditional cultural beliefs, 6 cultural practices and diet pattern. Of 892 participants, 47% were women. Weaker traditional cultural beliefs [OR(95%CI) 1.07(1.04,1.10)] and cultural practices (p < 0.05) were associated with consuming more of the Animal Protein dietary pattern and less [0.95(0.93,0.97)] of the Fried snacks, Sweets, High-fat dairy (FSHD) pattern (P < 0.05). South Asians in America with stronger traditional cultural beliefs and practices were more likely to consume the FSHD pattern. Prevention programs may consider dietary pattern modification as part of comprehensive risk reduction in South Asians.

KEYWORDS:

Acculturation; Dietary patterns; South Asian.

PMID: 32358772 DOI: 10.1007/s10903-020-01016-3

Prev Chronic Dis. 2020 Apr 30;17:E33. doi: 10.5888/pcd17.190353.

A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial of a Lay Health Worker Intervention to Increase Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Among Vietnamese Americans

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32352912

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Abstract

Introduction: Americans have low levels of knowledge of and adherence to recommendations for healthy eating of fruits and vegetables and for physical activity (HEPA). We conducted a cluster randomized controlled trial of a lay health worker intervention to increase HEPA among Vietnamese Americans.

Methods: We randomized 64 lay health workers to 2 intervention arms. Each lay health worker recruited 10 participants aged 50 to 74. From 2008 to 2013, using flip charts, lay health workers led 2 educational sessions on HEPA (intervention) or colorectal cancer (comparison). We assessed HEPA knowledge and self-reported behaviors by preintervention and postintervention surveys 6 months apart.

Results: Of the 640 participants, 50.0% were female, 38.4% had lived in the United States for 10 years or fewer, and 71.4% reported limited English proficiency. Knowledge of the recommended intake of fruits and vegetables (≥5 servings daily) increased from 2.6% to 60.5% in the intervention group (n = 311) and from 2.9% to 6.7% in the comparison group (n = 316) (intervention vs comparison change, P < .001). Knowledge of the physical activity recommendation (≥150 minutes weekly) increased from 2.6% to 62.4% among intervention participants and from 1.0% to 2.5% among comparison participants (P < .001). Consumption of 5 or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables increased more in the intervention group (8.4% to 62.1%) than in the comparison group (5.1% to 12.7%) (P < .001). Participants reporting 150 minutes or more of physical activity weekly increased from 28.9% to 54.0% in the intervention group and from 38.0% to 46.8% in the comparison group (intervention vs comparison change, P = .001).

Conclusion: A lay health worker intervention increased both healthy eating and physical activity knowledge and self-reported behaviors among older Vietnamese Americans.

PMID: 32352912 DOI: 10.5888/pcd17.190353

<u>J Immigr Minor Health</u>. 2020 May 16. doi: 10.1007/s10903-020-01021-6. Online ahead of print.

Associations of Neighborhood Factors and Activity Behaviors: The Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) Study

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32418001/

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Abstract

Social and built environments may influence physical activity (PA). However, evidence for South Asian Americans (SAA), a group with low PA levels and high cardiometabolic risk, is lacking. We assessed the association between five neighborhood factors and PA behaviors in a community-based cohort of SAA. Data were from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) Study 2010-2013 (n = 906). Adjusted multivariable models stratified by sex regressing PA behaviors on neighborhood factors were run. Higher neighborhood social cohesion was associated with 17% more PA MET minutes/week in men (p < 0.01), but not in women. Having a park/playground near home was associated with meeting PA guidelines (odds ratio (95% CI): men: 3.14 (1.20-8.24); women: 3.67 (1.17-11.52). Neighborhood factors were associated with favorable PA behaviors in SAA. PA interventions for SAA that increase neighborhood social cohesion or focus on linking individuals with local resources may be effective.

KEYWORDS:

Asian/pacific islander; Community health; Environment; Health behavior; Health disparities; Neighborhood; Pa/exercise; Social determinants.

PMID: 32418001 DOI: 10.1007/s10903-020-01021-6

<u>J Cancer Educ</u>. 2020 Apr 11. doi: 10.1007/s13187-020-01715-3. Online ahead of print.

Promoting Colorectal Cancer Screening in South Asian Muslims Living in the USA

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32279246/

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Abstract

Colorectal cancer is one of the more common forms of cancer in South Asian men and women. Despite the rates of colorectal cancer (CRC) in South Asians, the CRC screening rates remain low in South Asians and Muslims compared with those in Whites and other ethnic minorities in the USA. Religious and cultural barriers have been examined in relation to other types of cancer such as breast and cervical cancers. However, few data are available about CRC screening among Muslims, particularly South Asian American Muslims. A community-based participatory research approach was used to assess attitudes toward CRC screening and various cultural, religious, and gender barriers that prevent CRC screening expressed by Muslim South Asian men and women in the larger San Francisco Bay Area. Six focus groups were conducted (three males and three females) with South Asian American Muslims. The focus groups consisted of a total sample size of n = 32, with 15 men and 17 women, with the average age of participants being 57 years old. This study highlighted key religious, cultural, and gender barriers to CRC screening including lack of awareness of CRC, the notion of fatalism as it relates to screening, lack of emphasis on preventive health, the need to preserve modesty, and stigma around certain CRC screening practices. Religiously tailored interventions and culturally sensitive healthcare providers are needed to better promote CRC screening in South Asian Muslim communities and to help inform the design of health interventions and outreach strategies.

KEYWORDS:

Colorectal cancer screening; Community-based participatory research; Muslim; Qualitative research; South Asian Americans.

PMID: 32279246 DOI: 10.1007/s13187-020-01715-3

JMIR Public Health Surveill. 2020 Jul 6;6(3):e17103. doi: 10.2196/17103.

The Association Between State-Level Racial Attitudes Assessed From Twitter Data and Adverse Birth Outcomes: Observational Study

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32298232/

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Abstract

Background: In the United States, racial disparities in birth outcomes persist and have been widening. Interpersonal and structural racism are leading explanations for the continuing racial disparities in birth outcomes, but research to confirm the role of racism and evaluate trends in the impact of racism on health outcomes has been hampered by the challenge of measuring racism. Most research on discrimination relies on self-reported experiences of discrimination, and few studies have examined racial attitudes and bias at the US national level.

Objective: This study aimed to investigate the associations between state-level Twitter-derived sentiments related to racial or ethnic minorities and birth outcomes.

Methods: We utilized Twitter's Streaming application programming interface to collect 26,027,740 tweets from June 2015 to December 2017, containing at least one race-related term. Sentiment analysis was performed using support vector machine, a supervised machine learning model. We constructed overall indicators of sentiment toward minorities and sentiment toward race-specific groups. For each year, state-level Twitter-derived sentiment data were merged with birth data for that year. The study participants were women who had singleton births with no congenital abnormalities from 2015 to 2017 and for whom data were available on gestational age (n=9,988,030) or birth weight (n=9,985,402). The main outcomes were low birth weight (birth weight ≤2499 g) and preterm birth (gestational age <37 weeks). We estimated the incidence ratios controlling for individual-level maternal characteristics (sociodemographics, prenatal care, and health behaviors) and state-level demographics, using log binomial regression models.

Results: The accuracy for identifying negative sentiments on comparing the machine learning model to manually labeled tweets was 91%. Mothers living in states in the highest tertile for negative sentiment tweets referencing racial or ethnic minorities had greater incidences of low

birth weight (8% greater, 95% CI 4%-13%) and preterm birth (8% greater, 95% CI 0%-14%) compared with mothers living in states in the lowest tertile. More negative tweets referencing minorities were associated with adverse birth outcomes in the total population, including non-Hispanic white people and racial or ethnic minorities. In stratified subgroup analyses, more negative tweets referencing specific racial or ethnic minority groups (black people, Middle Eastern people, and Muslims) were associated with poor birth outcomes for black people and minorities.

Conclusions: A negative social context related to race was associated with poor birth outcomes for racial or ethnic minorities, as well as non-Hispanic white people.

KEYWORDS:

Birth outcomes; racial bias; racial or ethnic minorities; social media.

PMID: 32298232 DOI: 10.2196/17103

Free full text

Considering Health Literacy, Health Decision Making, and Health Communication in the Social Networks of Vulnerable New Mothers in Hawai'i: A Pilot Feasibility Study.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32244326

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Abstract

Health literacy is understudied in the context of social networks. Our pilot study goal was to consider this research gap among vulnerable, low-income mothers of minority ethnic background in the state of Hawai'i, USA. Recruitment followed a modified snowball sampling approach. First, we identified and interviewed seven mothers ("egos") in a state-sponsored home visiting program. We then sought to interview individuals whom each mother said was part of her health decision-making network ("first-level alters") and all individuals whom the first-level alters said were part of their health decision-making networks ("second-level alters"). Health literacy was self-reported using a validated item. A total of 18 people were interviewed, including all mothers (n = 7), 35% of the first-level alters (n = 7/20), and 36% of the second-level alters (n = 4/11). On average, the mothers made health decisions with 2.9 people (range: 1-6); partners/spouses and mothers/mothers-in-law were most common. One mother had low health literacy; her two first-level alters also had low health literacy. Across the full sample, the average number of people in individuals' health decision networks was 2.5 (range: 0-7); 39% of those interviewed had low health literacy. This can inform the design of future studies and successful interventions to improve health literacy.

KEYWORDS:

Filipino mothers; health communication; health literacy; low-income mothers; native Hawaiian mothers; social networks

PMID: 32244326 DOI: <u>10.3390/ijerph17072356</u>

Free full text

Nurs Health Sci. 2020 Apr 3. doi: 10.1111/nhs.12718. [Epub ahead of print]

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32243730

Acculturation and Health Behaviors Among Older Chinese Immigrants in the United States: A Qualitative Descriptive Study.

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Abstract

Older immigrants tend to experience rapid deterioration in health after immigration. Changes in health behaviors over the course of acculturation are considered attributable factors. However, much remains unknown when it comes to acculturation experiences and health behaviors among older immigrants. This study explored acculturation in three domains (behavioral, cognitive, and identificational) and described how each domain of acculturation could influence various health behaviors among community-dwelling older Chinese immigrants in the United States. In this qualitative descriptive study, trained bilingual interviewers conducted in-depth individual interviews with 24 participants in the greater Los Angeles area. Acculturation experiences emerged from qualitative content analysis, such as high dependence on Chinese behavioral patterns and intra-ethnic networks and limited inter-group interactions (behavioral acculturation); strong maintenance of Chinese cultural values and some American cultural learning (cognitive acculturation); and strong identification with Chinese ethnicity (identificational acculturation). Behavioral acculturation and cognitive acculturation may influence various health behaviors, including eating/diet, exercise, chronic disease, and mental health management. By recognizing the unique acculturation experiences, interventions could be developed to promote healthy behaviors in achieving optimal health in this population. This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

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KEYWORDS:

acculturation; chronic disease; diet; exercise; immigrants; mental health

PMID: 32243730 DOI: 10.1111/nhs.12718

J Couns Psychol. 2020 Apr 2. doi: 10.1037/cou0000435. [Epub ahead of print]

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32237885

Patterns of racial-ethnic socialization in Asian American families: Associations with racial-ethnic identity and social connectedness.

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Abstract

As Asian Americans continue to be one of the fastest growing populations in a rapidly diversifying United States (Lee, 2015), understanding how Asian American parents socialize their children about race and racism and how this contributes to development remains an important question (Chang, 2016; García Coll et al., 1996). Using a sample of 228 Asian American emerging adults (70% female, Mage = 20.23), we examined profiles of parental racialethnic socialization messages and their relationships with racial-ethnic identity and social connectedness outcomes. Results suggested 3 profiles. The guarded separation socialization group reported receiving the most frequent messages about maintaining their heritage culture and avoiding outgroups. The passive and active integration socialization groups also received frequent messages about maintaining heritage culture, but very few messages about avoiding outgroups or minimizing the significance of race. The active integration socialization group received the most messages about becoming American, treating everyone equally, and respecting diverse cultures, compared to the passive integration socialization group, which reported receiving few of these messages. Participants in the active integration profile reported significantly higher levels of cognitive clarity and affective pride regarding their racial-ethnic identity compared to the other two profiles, while individuals in the passive and active integration profiles reported significantly higher levels of social connectedness than those in guarded separation profile. These findings highlight the importance of using a holistic lens to understand Asian American youths' perceptions of how their parents engage in racial-ethnic socialization across multiple domains. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2020 APA, all rights reserved).

PMID: 32237885 DOI: 10.1037/cou0000435

J Immigr Minor Health. 2020 Mar 31. doi: 10.1007/s10903-020-01006-5. [Epub ahead of print]

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32236776

Participation of Workers of Asian Ancestry in High-Risk Occupations in the United

States: 2009 to 2017.

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Abstract

Risk for workplace injury varies by occupation. Participation in high-risk occupations is non-

randomly distributed as a function of demographic characteristics. Enhancing understanding of

occupational health and safety disparities allows for the creation of actionable knowledge to

advance health equity. The specific aim of our analysis was to examine between-group

differences in participation in high-risk occupations among workers with an Asian Indian,

Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese ancestry. Analysis included workers who

reported one of the following ancestries: Asian Indian; Chinese; Filipino; Japanese; Korean; or

Vietnamese. Observational study used American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use

Microdata Sample (PUMS) single-year files from 2009 through 2017. Data on the analytic

sample (unweighted = 480,170) was used to estimate per Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) by year

and Asian ancestry. Analysis used the replicate weight method to estimate margins of error.

Statistical analysis indicated workers with a Filipino ancestry engage in high-risk occupations at

the highest proportion. Observed between-group differences merit further scientific inquiry.

Advancing metrology is crucial to promoting the health equity of understudied populations.

KEYWORDS:

Ancestry; Asian; Demography; Equity; Occupation; Race

PMID: 32236776 DOI: <u>10.1007/s10903-020-01006-5</u>

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Acculturation and Diet Among Chinese American Immigrants in New York City.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

There are limited data on the social and cultural determinants of dietary intake in Chinese Americans. Over 560,000 New York City residents are Chinese American, and there has been a growing trend over the past 30 y of permanent migration from China to the USA.

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this secondary data analysis is to describe associations between diet, measured by self-report, and diet quality, with level of acculturation in a cross-sectional sample of urbandwelling Chinese American immigrants.

METHODS:

This was a cross-sectional study involving 2071 foreign-born Chinese American adults. Acculturation was assessed using the Stephenson Multigroup Acculturation Scale, diet using a Chinese-adapted FFQ, and diet quality using the Alternative Healthy Eating Index (AHEI). Multivariable regression was used to assess associations between ethnic (ESI; Chinese) and dominant (DSI; American) society immersion scores with self-reported dietary measures.

RESULTS:

No significant associations were found between acculturation and overall AHEI score. Higher ESI and DSI scores were associated with higher vegetable, fruit, and nut/legume scores; a higher DSI score only was associated with higher whole grain and PUFA scores. A 1-unit increase in the ESI score was associated with a 0.005~(P=0.009) lower red and processed meat component score, whereas a 1-unit increase in DSI score was associated with a 0.01~(P=0.025) higher red and processed meat component score.

CONCLUSIONS:

Assessment of acculturation level may help to tailor dietary strategies that are appropriate to what Chinese American immigrant communities are consuming to more effectively decrease the risk of chronic disease.

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KEYWORDS:

Chinese Americans; acculturation; diet quality; dietary acculturation; urban health

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