

### COVID-19 AND THE INTERSECTION OF RACE, ETHNICITY, AND SEXUAL MINORITY STATUS.

Robert Beringer,<sup>1</sup> Brian de Vries,<sup>2</sup> Gloria Gutman,<sup>3</sup> Paneet Gill,<sup>4</sup> and Helena Dault,<sup>5</sup> 1. *University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*, 2. *San Francisco State University, Palm Springs, California, United States*, 3. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, 4. *Simon Fraser University, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada*, 5. *Victoria Hospice, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*

The COVID-19 virus has caused millions of deaths and impaired physical and mental health and social disconnection for countless persons around the world; concomitantly, the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the pervasive effects of racism and stigma experienced by Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) and other marginalized/stigmatized groups. This study adopts an intersectional perspective examining multiple marginalized identities (i.e., the combination of LGBTQ and BIPOC status) and COVID-19 pandemic health stressors. We report on data from an online survey (conducted between Aug 10 and Oct. 10, 2020) focusing on current experiences and future planning during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. LGBTQ respondents (n=415) indicated significantly higher levels of depression, loneliness, sadness, and isolation in comparison to heterosexuals (n=3916). Heterosexual white respondents (n=3446) reported significantly higher levels of acceptance in their community and reported greater happiness but also higher rates of feeling of isolation than heterosexual BIPOC heterosexuals (n=470) who reported significantly higher rates of feeling judged/shamed by others than the heterosexual white respondents. In contrast to our expectations, white LGBTQ respondents (n=366) reported significantly more depression, loneliness, anxiety, and sadness than their BIPOC LGBTQ peers (n=49). These findings are interpreted as reflecting a complex mix of the effects of marginalization (as experienced by LGBTQ persons in general), and privilege and relative deprivation (as experienced by heterosexual and LGBTQ white persons) along with resilience and the moderated expectations and experiences of BIPOC LGBTQ persons.

### FACTORS RELATED TO COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Julene Johnson,<sup>1</sup> Orlando Harris,<sup>2</sup> Carl V. Hill,<sup>3</sup> Peter Lichtenberg,<sup>4</sup> Sahru Keiser,<sup>2</sup> Thi Tran,<sup>5</sup> Tam Perry,<sup>4</sup> and Elena Portacolone,<sup>6</sup> 1. *University California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States*, 2. *University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States*, 3. *Alzheimer's Association, Chicago, Illinois, United States*, 4. *Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States*, 5. *UCSF/ San Francisco, UCSF Institute of Health and Aging/ San Francisco, California, United States*, 6. *University of California, Berkeley, California, United States*

Black/African Americans represent 13% of the population, yet account for more than 24% of COVID-19 deaths. Emerging evidence indicates that Black Americans are receiving COVID-19 vaccines at lower rates than whites. However, there is minimal information about why vaccination rates are lower. To address this gap, we examined the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among Black Americans, with an emphasis on understanding trust and vaccine uptake.

Data were collected between July and September 2020 using 8 virtual focus groups in Detroit, MI and San Francisco Bay Area, CA with 33 older Black Americans and 11 caregivers of older Black Americans with cognitive impairment. Inductive/deductive content analysis was used to identify themes. The first theme pointed to a sense of feeling abandoned by healthcare providers and the government at local and state levels, which exacerbated uncertainty and fear about the vaccine and in general. The second theme emphasized a sense of deep distrust towards healthcare providers and the government, especially during the pandemic. The third theme pointed to a reluctance in receiving the vaccine because of distrust of pharmaceutical companies and the government, as well as misinformation and the rapid speed of vaccine development. These findings suggest that underlying systemic issues need to be addressed immediately to accelerate vaccine uptake among older Black Americans. New initiatives are needed to foster trust and address abandonment by healthcare and government systems. In addition, public health campaigns with reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccine are needed.

### MEETING NEEDS OF DIVERSE OLDER ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM COVID-19?

Alycia Bayne,<sup>1</sup> Rachel Singer,<sup>1</sup> Candace Spradley,<sup>2</sup> Lauren Isaacs,<sup>3</sup> Eva Jeffers,<sup>4</sup> Benjamin Olivari,<sup>4</sup> Kevin Matthews,<sup>5</sup> and Alaina Whitton,<sup>6</sup> 1. *NORC at the University of Chicago, Bethesda, Maryland, United States*, 2. *CDC Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia, United States*, 3. *NORC at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States*, 4. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, United States*, 5. *NCCDPHP, Centers for Disease Control, Georgia, United States*, 6. *The CDC Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia, United States*

With support from the CDC Foundation and technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NORC at the University of Chicago conducted studies to examine the needs and concerns of older adults and unpaid caregivers during COVID-19, including their trusted sources of COVID-19 information and available public health interventions. Methods included a nationally representative survey of 1,030 adults aged 50+ years using computer-assisted telephone and web interviewing; online focus groups with older adults and caregivers in Spanish and English; a survey and interviews with stakeholder organizations; secondary analysis of U.S. caregiver surveys; analysis of public social media posts; and searches of peer-reviewed and grey literature in Spanish and English to identify interventions. Results suggest that needs and concerns differed among older adult subpopulations, including racial and ethnic minority populations, people with lower incomes, rural and tribal populations, people with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities as well as caregivers. Older adults perceived news media, the internet, and healthcare providers as important resources for COVID-19 information, although trusted sources varied by race and ethnicity, urbanicity, and income. Findings suggested the need to increase awareness of existing public health interventions and resources to support older adults and caregivers during public health emergencies

like COVID-19. Strategies for tailoring communication for diverse older adults and caregivers include partnering with national organizations, leveraging community-level infrastructure, and disseminating information through trusted sources. Studying the needs of older adults and caregivers during COVID-19 can inform future public health emergency response priorities.

## Session 2380 (Symposium)

### COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE ELDER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Chair: Jordan Lewis

Much of the past research conducted with tribal communities was coined "helicopter research," because researchers would enter the community, gather data, and leave the community, never to inform communities how the data was used or published, creating mistrust. Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) is a research approach conducted as an equal partnership between community members, organizational representatives, and researchers that serve as guidelines for researchers working collaboratively with communities. This symposium will offer a panel of presentations highlighting research studies with tribal communities that honor and respect tribal sovereignty in addressing health and wellbeing among their older adults. The panel presentations will consist of presentations on dementia caregiving, generativity and successful aging, social support and diabetes management, elder-centered research methods.

### SOCIAL SUPPORT AND DIABETES MANAGEMENT AMONG OLDER AMERICAN INDIANS

R. Turner Goins,<sup>1</sup> Molly Grant,<sup>2</sup> Kathleen Conte,<sup>3</sup> and Lisa Lefler,<sup>4</sup> 1. *Western Carolina University, Western Carolina University, North Carolina, United States*, 2. *Phoenix Counseling and Crisis Center, Gastonia, North Carolina, United States*, 3. *DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, United States*, 4. *Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, United States*

We examined social support among older American Indians in relation to their diabetes management. In-depth interviews were conducted with 28 participants aged  $\geq 60$  years who were members of a federally-recognized tribe. We examined professionally transcribed audio recordings with a systematic text analysis approach. Main sources of social support were family/friends, clinicians/formal services, community/culture, and spiritual/God. Most of the support was instrumental in nature, including food shopping, meal preparation, and medication management. Social support had both positive and negative influences diabetes management while there were some participants who lacked support. The four main social support types were present, including instrumental, emotional, informational, appraisal support. Value orientations among American Indian families command lateral-group relational behavior rather than autonomy and independence with extended social systems fostering interdependence. A deeper understanding is needed of how social relationships can be better leveraged to aid in the effective diabetes management among older American Indians.

### ALASKA NATIVE ELDER-CENTERED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Rosellen Rosich,<sup>1</sup> Maria Crouch,<sup>2</sup> and Jordan Lewis,<sup>3</sup> 1. *University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska, United States*, 2. *Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, East Haven, Connecticut, United States*, 3. *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team/University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, Duluth, Minnesota, United States*

Alaska Native (AN) Elders have historically been underrepresented in research. Innovative AN research posits that practice-based evidence is fundamental to culturally grounded, multifaceted methods. AN Elders is a cultural convention distinguishing Elders who continue to serve as an integral part of their family and community and recognized by their community as role models. Several studies will be discussed which employed Elders at every level of the research, ensuring cultural relevancy, outcomes, and dissemination activities. The findings lay the foundation for an Elder-centered research methodology that can be adapted and applied in other studies to encourage engagement of older adults. This methodology has potential to impact research for underrepresented groups and to rethink and reshape Western-centric practices. Findings from this research provides best practices for capacity building and sustainability, strategies for empowerment and prevention, and a framework for supporting the AN community in all phases of research.

### CULTURAL CONTINUITY IN A RESERVATION NURSING HOME

Pamela Monaghan-Geernaert, *Northern State University, Aberdeen, South Dakota, United States*

Throughout our lifespan we experience the culture of our families and communities. Our cultural selves guide our understanding of health and illness. However the health care system often ignores our culture in the delivery of care. This can have devastating effects on individuals and particularly the elderly. This presentation reviews a case study of a tribally owned and operated nursing home. The emphasis on maintaining cultural activities, feasting on traditional foods, offering sacred practices led to high satisfaction of the health care experience by residents and staff. Creating this environment was difficult and barriers in culturally responsive care delivery will also be discussed.

### COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH ON DIET AND ACTIVITY WITH AN INDIGENOUS PUEBLO COMMUNITY

Karen Kopera-Frye, *New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, United States*

Tribal Critical Race Theory (Brayboy, 2005) supports the use of decolonizing methodologies such as Community-Based Participatory Research when collaborating with Indigenous communities. This paper highlights the underlying processes in working with a Pueblo community on an intergenerational health project. Indigenous participants included 16 Piro Pueblo individuals who collaborated on a project examining healthy diets and activity in their community. The project involved providing information on the importance of activity and healthy eating of traditional foods to promote healthy