

Deerfield, Illinois, United States, 3. Walgreens, Deerfield, Illinois, United States

The COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement brought increased recognition to the need for health equity. Diabetes, the 7th leading cause of death, is one of many conditions where health inequities are evident. A higher percentage of Black (11.7%) and Hispanic (12.5%) U.S. adults are diagnosed with diabetes compared to non-Hispanic Whites (7.5%). To address this health inequity, a nationwide pharmacy chain implemented telephonic 'Advanced Care' (AC) outreach for patients with diabetes. During the AC call, pharmacists used motivational interviewing techniques to counsel patients on the importance of closing gaps in care and reducing barriers to medication adherence. Gaps included timely A1C testing, exams (eye, foot, kidney), immunizations (influenza, pneumonia, Hepatitis B), and recommendation of additional therapies for patients with multiple chronic conditions (ACE/ARB, statins). Medication fill gaps were compared between the Intervention period (8/1/20-1/31/21) and a pre-intervention period (2/1/20-7/31/20). The AC pilot occurred in 8 Chicago Walgreens locations that primarily serve Black and Hispanic patients. Eight control stores were matched on census block-level household income and race/ethnicity, patient volume, and insurance mix. A pre/post-test vs. control difference-in-difference (DID) analysis was conducted to compare on-time refill rates. Of the 1,009 older patients (age \geq 50) called, 59.9% were reached. The DID analysis showed that patients in pilot stores had improved pre-post on-time refill rates compared to controls ($p < 0.0001$). Diabetes self-management is key to reducing diabetes-related complications. Early findings from this pilot demonstrate that the Walgreens AC intervention improves medication adherence - an important step toward improving health equity.

INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING DIFFICULTIES PREDICT COGNITIVE DECLINE IN OLDER PUERTO RICAN ADULTS

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Given the hypothesized bidirectional association between functional and cognitive decline, further characterization of the temporal association between the two is needed, especially in Latinx samples as they are the most rapidly growing demographic in the United States and at greater risk for Alzheimer's disease. This study assessed bidirectional associations between instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) difficulty and cognition in older Puerto Rican adults. Participants included 2,840 community-dwelling adults (60+ years) without cognitive impairment who completed baseline and a four-year follow-up in the Puerto Rican Elderly: Health Conditions (PREHCO) project. At each wave, cognition (using the Mini-Mental Cabán) and self-reported IADL difficulty (a sum score of 10 everyday tasks) were measured. Covariates included age, gender, education, comorbidities, and depressive symptoms. Bidirectional associations were

tested using a path model with concurrent and cross-lagged paths between cognition and IADL difficulty adjusting for covariates. Lower baseline cognition related to more baseline IADL difficulty ($B = -0.08$, $SE = 0.02$, $p < .001$). Cognitive decline at follow-up related to greater IADL difficulty at follow-up ($B = -0.06$, $SE = 0.02$, $p = .012$). Looking at cross-lagged associations, greater baseline IADL difficulty associated with more cognitive decline at follow-up ($B = -0.10$, $SE = 0.04$, $p = .012$). However, baseline cognition was not significantly associated with change in IADL difficulty at follow-up ($B = -0.003$, $SE = 0.02$, $p = .869$). Findings support the growing body of literature that IADL difficulties can predict future cognitive decline in samples of community-dwelling older adults. More research into both functional and cognitive decline in Latinx samples will provide a more generalizable view of aging.

POPULATION AGING AND MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES: IMPLICATIONS FOR OLDER CONSUMERS' NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS

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Looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, the United States will be both older and more multicultural than presently. To explore the impacts and characteristics of an increasingly diverse population beginning to age, the MIT AgeLab conducted online focus groups in August 2020 ($n = 92$) with ethnically diverse participants ages 40-69 on topics related to household composition, use of technology and digital engagement. Regarding household composition, Black and Latinx participants were more likely to report living with grandchild(ren), and Asian, Latinx, and White participants were more likely to report living with a parent(s) or parent(s)-in-law. Latinx participants often described ways in which caregiving for aging parents was a cultural value, but many participants who had raised children in the United States but who were not born in the United States themselves described cultural gaps in family attitudes that had sometimes widened across the generations. While all participants were using some technology, due to the coronavirus pandemic, digital tools were being used more widely than ever before. Racial/ethnic identity groups were more similar than different in terms of their responses to questions around consumer digital engagement. There were notable differences in overall trust in technology across racial/ethnic groups, with Asian participants reporting the highest average overall level of trust in technology and Multiracial participants reporting the lowest. Looking ahead, the intersection of aging and growing racial/ethnic diversity in the United States will yield a wider array of consumer needs and expectations.

Session 2405 (Symposium)

EFFECTS OF LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION ON COGNITIVE HEALTH: LATEST PERSPECTIVES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Chair: Ted Ng
Co-Chair: Kexin Yu
Discussant: James Lubben