

BASIC RESOURCES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTHS AS PREDICTORS OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS

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Loss of personal resources is expected to have a negative effect on well-being in all ages, however, in very old age, this effect may be exacerbated. Centenarians, who are confronted with accumulated age-related losses, may be at higher risk of experiencing depressive symptoms. This study investigated the link between basic resources (i.e., health, social network) and depressive symptoms and whether it was mediated by psychological strengths (i.e., meaning, optimism) in 119 centenarians and near-centenarians (Age = 99.7 years). Results indicated that meaning in life fully mediated the link between health and depressive symptoms, and the link between social network size and depressive symptoms. Similarly, optimism mediated the link between network and depression, but no mediation effect was found when considering health as basic resource. In sum, basic resources are only indirectly associated to depressive feelings, with psychological strengths playing an important intervening role in very old age.

CENTENARIANS' EXPERIENCE OF THE COVID PANDEMIC IN SWITZERLAND

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Being considered as individuals with elevated risk of severe health reactions to the COVID19 infections, governments around the world have put in place wide-ranging measures to protect very old individuals from the virus. In the present study, we investigated centenarians' experience of the COVID19 pandemic, to reach a better understanding of their vulnerability and resilience. As part of the SWISS100 study, we conducted telephone interviews with 30 centenarians and 40 family members. While almost all centenarians felt not, qualitative data suggested the existence of two groups: One included centenarians lived rather withdrawn and isolated before the crisis and therefore did not experience major changes. The other group included centenarians who suffered substantially from no longer being able to see family and friends and missed valued activities. Family members reported challenges, including centenarians' decline in mental and physical health. Findings highlight the importance of different vulnerability profiles and lock-down side effects.

Session 1420 (Symposium)

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ADULT DAY SERVICES

Chair: Katherine Marx

Co-Chair: Laura Gitlin

Discussant: Tina Sadarangani

Adult day service (ADS) centers serve an important role in care provision for people living with dementia (PLWD). These programs provide socialization, activities, and access to many therapies for PLWD. Additionally, they offer respite to family caregivers so they can work, run errands, and recharge. In March 2020, like much of the nation, ADS sites across the nation were shut down. This left many PLWD and their caregivers without access to the services they depended on to manage day to day care. It also left many sites without a revenue source to pay employees and maintain buildings. Almost a year later, many states have still not reopened ADS and sites that have reopened have done so with a lower census, increased costs, and the lingering fear of a second closure. Much focus has been on the care of older adults in nursing homes or other residential long-term care settings but the challenges of ADS and the people they serve has been mostly ignored. The purpose of this symposium is to highlight the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on ADS centers. Holly Dabelko-Schoeny will present data gathered from ADS Centers across Ohio. Lauren Parker, will then present data from ADS sites across the United States that examines the effect of COVID-19 on closures and programming during the closures. Katherine Marx will present the effect of ADS closures on family caregivers of persons living with dementia. Finally, Joseph Gaugler will explore this from a policy perspective and provide recommendations moving forward.

CARING FOR A FAMILY MEMBER LIVING WITH DEMENTIA WHEN ADULT DAY SERVICES CLOSE

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Adult Day Service (ADS) centers play an important role in community services that help families keep a person living with dementia (PLWD) at home. We interviewed 33 family caregivers about their experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the shutdown of the ADS centers where the PLWD attends. All 33 (100%) reported that the ADS center was shut for a period of time (range: 2 weeks – remain closed). Caregivers reported a decline in their physical health (33%,n=11) and mental health (52%,n=17) and an increase in feelings of loneliness (48%,n=16). For the PLWD, the caregivers noted, a decline in physical (48%,n=16) and mental (55%,n=18) health and an increase in behaviors (39%,n=13). The shutdown of most ADS centers across the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic has had implications not only for the ADS sites but for the families that entrust them with the care for a family member.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADULT DAY SERVICES' CLOSURES AND PROGRAMMING

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Nationally, adult day services (ADS) were forced to closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The forced closure of ADS programming consequentially impacted the services provided to clients. Many ADS continued to provide telephonic/remote services to clients, despite limited reimbursement from national and state sources for these services. Using data from ADS sites participating in the ADS-Plus Program (n=22), this presentation examines the effects of COVID-19 on ADS closures and programming provided during the closure. About 86% (n=19) of the centers reported having to closed due to COVID-19. One-hundred percent of the sites reported offering telephone support to clients. Nearly 45% (n=10) of the centers reported not being reimbursed for this service. As ADS is a vital community-based resource for many families, it is important to demonstrate the crucial services provided by ADS to inform policymakers of the essentiality of day centers.

ADULT DAY SERVICES AND COVID: A CRISIS IN OHIO

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An Ohio Executive Order forced adult day service providers across the state to close from March 24, 2020 until September 21, 2020 due to COVID, resulting in significant hardship for providers and families. In fact, 65% of programs reported laying off or reducing staff and 83% of directors reported participants had to move to higher and more expensive levels of care such as nursing homes and assisted living. Programs reported that 74% of caregivers had to choose between working and taking care of their family members. Ninety-one percent of ADS program directors in Ohio reported their caregivers were experiencing an increase in stress and anxiety. This paper explores the experiences of Ohio adult day providers during the COVID epidemic, and identifies the challenges and opportunities to coalition building to educate policy makers about day services and the crucial care centers provide.

ADULT DAY SERVICES AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Joseph Gaugler,¹ Katherine Marx,² Holly Dabelko-Schoeny,³ Lauren Parker,⁴ Keith Anderson,⁵ Elizabeth Albers,¹ and Laura Gitlin,⁶
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Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the significant challenges and gaps related to the care of older people in the

U.S. were made distressingly apparent. This summary presentation will consider the effects of COVID-19 and associated shutdowns on older persons who use ADS programs, their family caregivers, and programs/staff themselves. Among recommendations to consider are the classification of adult day services and similar community-based long-term care providers as essential (and clarifying their difference from senior centers). In addition, considering new financing approaches and utilizing ADS or similar community-based programs as incubators of evidence-based innovation are options to consider to better align ADS with optimal dementia care.

Session 1425 (Symposium)

INNOVATIVE POPULATION AND INTERVENTION RESEARCH FOR LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA IN A COVID WORLD

Chair: Charles Emler

Co-Chair: Karen Fredriksen Goldsen

This past year, the lives of vulnerable older adults, including those within the older LGBTQ+ community have been disrupted dramatically, as has the research agendas designed to improve their lives. Older people, including LGBTQ+ older adults with dementia, have been placed at increased risk for social isolation and mental health issues during COVID, making viable interventions even more crucial. Additionally, how research is conducted within these communities needed to be adjusted in order to preserve viability. This symposium draws upon data from the National Health Aging and Sexuality/Gender study, the first longitudinal study of LGBTQ+ older adults in the United States, as well as data from Aging with Pride: IDEA (Innovations in Dementia Empowerment and Action), the first randomized controlled trial (RCT) designed to improve quality of life of LGBTQ+ adults living with dementia and their care partners. (1) Kim and Fredriksen Goldsen examine modifiable behavioral and social factors that can improve quality of life among LGBTQ+ older adults with cognitive impairment. (2) Fredriksen Goldsen, Teri, Emler and colleagues present initial efficacy findings from the IDEA study and how the intervention needed to be altered to be viable in a COVID world. (3) The importance of Motivational Interviewing (MI) as part of a LGBTQ+ sensitive intervention designed for LGBTQ+ older adults with dementia and their care partners is discussed by Petros, Fredriksen Goldsen and Teri. As COVID continues to impact vulnerable populations as well as research and service delivery, identifying new and innovative strategies will become increasingly important.

THE FIRST INTERVENTION STUDY FOR LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA AND CAREGIVERS: COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED

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LGBTQ+ older adults face significant health disparities with higher rates of cognitive impairment and social