

benefits. In this study, these included an increased sense of personal strength, increased spirituality, and empathy for others (all domains of PTG). 89 participants with severe vision loss (mean age = 85.3 years, age range = 74–98 years) completed the interviewer-administered composite questionnaire, which identified elements of Tedeschi and Calhoun's model of PTG. Relationships between variables were examined using path analysis. Findings were contextualized with data from 15 qualitative interviews. Findings underscored the importance of supportive others and deliberate cognitive processing in the path to PTG.

SOCIAL ISOLATION AS A MECHANISM LINKING SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WITH COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING

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Hearing and vision loss have been linked with cognitive decline in older adults. There may be various pathways through which sensory impairments impact cognitive functioning. Sensory impairments may lead individuals to be less socially connected, which may impact cognitive functioning due to less cognitive stimulation. As such, sensory impairments and social isolation may cascade to negatively impact cognitive functioning. Using data from 8,334 individuals aged 65-90+ in waves 6, 7, and 8 of the NHATS study, we estimated a longitudinal mediation structural equation model. Findings indicate that both self-reported vision and hearing impairment in wave 6 of NHATS were linked to concurrent cognitive functioning through social isolation. Only hearing impairment demonstrated longitudinal impact through social isolation across 2 and 3 waves. Findings suggest that medical professionals working with older adults with vision or hearing impairment should assess social isolation, as a point of intervention to maintain cognitive function.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT AND SOCIAL ISOLATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HISPANIC POPULATION

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Although the likelihood of developing a disability increases with age among all demographics, older adults of hispanic origin are more likely to experience vision and hearing impairment than both their white and black non-hispanic counterparts. Both hearing impairment and vision impairment are known risk factors for social isolation, yet little research has examined this association in Hispanic populations. Using data from 472 Hispanic and 5,186 White participants of the NHATS study, we examined 8-year trajectories of social isolation, along with how sensory impairment was associated with initial levels and change over time. Findings suggest that sensory impairments are linked with steeper increases over time among White participants. Among Hispanics vision and hearing impairments were linked with

higher initial levels of social isolation, yet no associations were found across time. It may be that Hispanic older adults maintain social connections across time despite potentially isolating sensory impairments.

EXPLORING HOW HEARING, VISION, AND COGNITION AFFECT OLDER ADULTS' DRIVING EXPOSURE PATTERNS

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Better information is needed about how declines in sensory and cognitive function affect older drivers. This study assessed how hearing loss affects engagement in four challenging driving patterns. Data from the AAA Longitudinal Research on Aging Drivers study was used, including objectively-measured driving; three measures of hearing: reported hearing aid use, self-rated hearing, and the Whisper Test; visual acuity (Tumbling E); and cognition (Trail Making B). Failing the Whisper Test in both ears was related to significantly lower percentage of trips (%trips) at night, on freeways, and during rush hour, but a higher %trips >15 miles. Hearing aid use and self-rated hearing were not associated with any driving differences. Worse vision was related to a lower %trips >15 miles, while worse cognition was associated with a lower %trips at night, on freeways, and during rush hour. The Whisper Test interacted with cognition for rush hour trips.

SESSION 5735 (SYMPOSIUM)

SERVICES THAT MATTER FOR AGING IN PLACE: RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT AND PROMISE OF ADULT DAY CENTERS

Chair: Tina Sadarangani

Discussant: Holly Dabelko-Schoeny

Adult day service centers (ADCs) in the United States are increasingly recognized as an important source of community-based long-term care for older adults. However, awareness, widespread utilization, reimbursements, and access to ADCs have been limited by a lack of evidence on ADCs' impact. In this interdisciplinary symposium, we explore current research taking place in the realm of adult day services to understand the reach and impact of ADCs. We begin by examining the most current center-level and user-level data from the National Center for Health Statistics, and demonstrate how these data can be used to inform research and policy. We subsequently evaluate survey data from the National Adult Day Services Association that captures clinical data being collected in ADCs (N=250) surrounding users' clinical outcomes. We then explore the effectiveness of four interventions on ADC users' health and functional status: board games, cognitive behavioral therapy, aromatherapy and dance. Finally, we examine the association between adult day services use by African American persons with dementia and depressive