African Immigrant Memory Loss Assessment Project

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BACKGROUND

- Immigrant populations have a higher prevalence of dementia compared with their U.S.-born counterparts.[1]

- The unique healthcare needs of the African immigrant population are understudied because researchers misclassify African Immigrants as African American/Black.

- Dementia assessment tools are yet to be tailored for the underserved communities due to institutional racism in research.

THE PROJECT

- This is a community based participatory research
- The Project advisory board (PAB) developed the goals of the project, metrics of success, research question and methodology.

We expect our study to inform the development of a culturally tailored dementia assessment tool for future dementia research on African immigrants and similar communities.

METHODS

- Qualitative data was gathered through 3 community conversations with a total participation of 20 community members.

- Conducted recruitments at churches and community centers.

- Conversations were facilitated by PAB members using a 13 question conversation guide, also developed by the PAB.

- Conversations were recorded and transcribed.

- Simple thematic analysis was used to examine the depth and magnitude of subject material

African Immigrant Communities

Project Advisory Board (PAB)

Families & Long-Term Care Projects

ACER

"We have to find a place (nursing home) that is comfortable for the seniors, with (cultural) food, color of people around. It is important."
- Community

QUALITATIVE RESULTS

Family Care	• Close family is considered to be main caregivers. • Institutions and community programs are secondary line of support • Families requested education on providing holistic care at home.
Community	• Collective pride in the highly supportive fabric of the community • Local organizations and places of worship were recognized to be essential community resources.
Education	• Charged, stigmatizing language was used for dementia back in the country of origin. Some may persist currently in the U.S. • Community requested more education on dementia care options and therapies.

CONCLUSION

The dementia care needs assessment in future should:
- Measure specific needs of the family caretakers
- Build relationships with local organizations – e.g.: OLM.
- Remain sensitive to systemic racism in research

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