SESSION 10120 (LATE BREAKING POSTER)

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS

A COMMUNITY-BASED WORKSHOP ON ADDRESSING DEMENTIA-RELATED STIGMA: FIRST INSIGHTS FROM A RURAL COMMUNITY

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Dementia-related stigma can delay early dementia diagnosis and lead to social isolation, depression, and suicide. Despite this knowledge, few studies identify strategies to reduce dementia-related stigma. This late-breaker poster begins to address this gap by showcasing the educational components of a community-based workshop to share study findings on reducing dementia-related stigma in rural communities. Guided by solutions-focused theory, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 18 seniors including family members, friends, caregivers and people affected by dementia and other forms of cognitive impairment in rural Saskatchewan, Canada. A focus group was conducted with 7 rural community leaders. The interview and focus group transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis. Based on the interview and focus group findings, educational components of the workshop included: a dementia definition, different dementia types, warning signs/symptoms, risk reduction strategies, and information on dementia-related stigma and myths. Several strategies to reduce stigma were identified ranging from hosting intergenerational programs to inviting guest speakers with dementia. This study was found to be beneficial for improving knowledge, attitudes, comfort levels, and awareness of dementia. Additional research is needed to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions to reduce dementia-related stigma in different cultures and contexts.

AGING ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE: RESEARCH COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF COMPUTERIZED DATA ON AGING

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The creation and maintenance of sustainable data archives can be challenging, but it offers clear advantages. Properly curated data can be used by multiple researchers, testing a variety of hypotheses, and increasing the return on investment to the expensive process of data collection. Having an internally managed archival system also provides greater control and autonomy in the equitable distribution of data resources. This process ensures all researchers will have full use of the data for original research, teaching, and new directions once the data leaves the control of the local investigator's control. This poster reviews the advantages of having a local strategy geared toward the preservation and sharing of gerontological research data. Using the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) as a working example, the poster offers an overview of collections at NACDA. Using our metadata tools and variable search database, NACDA can identify studies in its collections that examine aspects of aging and health among adults during their lifecourse. Many of the studies are longitudinal or repeat measure cross-sectional studies. We are also able to identify studies that focus on aging that are not maintained by NACDA but which are available to interested researchers. This poster focuses on newly released work by NACDA that has compared to major aging studies (NHATS and NSHAP) and organized them into quasi-harmonized files for download and analysis by the gerontological research community. These recently available enhancements will allow researchers to obtain user-friendly comparative data for these complex studies.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LATE-LIFE HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA AND PROGRESSION OF DEMENTIA SEVERITY AMONG OLDER ADULTS

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Progression of dementia severity varies widely by individuals and multiple factors might influence the progression. The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between late-life hypercholesterolemia and progression of dementia severity in older adults. We used prospectively collected longitudinal data from 2,686 adults aged ≥65 years in the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center. Progression of dementia severity was measured using both Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) - Sum of Boxes (SOB) and Global scores. Kaplan Meier curves were plotted to estimate the association between hypercholesterolemia and progression of dementia severity. We also conducted multivariate Cox regression models to estimate the association of hypercholesterolemia with the outcomes adjusting for age, gender, race, ethnicity, marital status, living status, education, smoking, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, blood pressure, and diabetes. Hypercholesterolemia had significant association with CDR-SOB ≥ 1 point increase (unadjusted HR, 1.23; 95% CI, 1.13-1.35; p<0.001; adjusted HR, 1.17; 95% CI, 1.07-1.28; p<0.001). In addition, hypercholesterolemia had significant association with CDR-Global ≥ 0.5 point increase (unadjusted HR, 1.14; 95% CI, 1.04-1.25; p<0.001; adjusted HR, 1.11; 95% CI, 1.01-1.22 p=0.036). If these findings can be replicated in future studies, future studies need to examine if proper management of cholesterol may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's dementia in late-life older adults.

CHANGE IN BODY MASS INDEX IS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGE IN COGNITION IN OLDER ADULTS

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Background: Alzheimer's disease and related dementias affect one in ten Americans age 65y and older. Considering