

Health and social service utilization among elderly immigrants from the former Soviet Union

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Key Words:

Russian, service use, carers

Research aim:

To explore factors that affect health and social service use among elderly Russian immigrants from the perspectives of the elders, their adult caregiving children, and the health and social service professionals who serve them.

Results/Conclusion:

Participants across groups perceived extensive service use by elderly Russian immigrants. Life circumstances associated with immigration, cultural norms and beliefs, and structural characteristics of the local Russian immigrant community accounted for service use.

Implications:

Findings indicate that providing support for depression and loneliness associated with immigration, educating immigrants about the role of Primary care providers in the US as well as realistic expectations for American medicine, and managing care to decrease the use of unnecessary services would facilitate appropriate service use among elderly Russian immigrants.

Cultural Group(s):

Russian

Location of study:

United States (Boston)

Age group:

mixed - elders, their caregiving children, health professionals

Number included in study:

40

Type of participants:

17 elderly Russian immigrants, 8 adult caregiving children, and 15 health professionals

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: