

Health care and social service use among Chinese immigrant elders

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Key Words:

Chinese, service use, carers, traditional beliefs

Research aim:

We explored patterns and reasons for health and social service use among Chinese immigrant elders.

Results/Conclusion:

Participants across groups agreed that Chinese elders underutilize services because of problems related to language, transportation, cost, long waits for appointments, and because of cultural norms/values related to need for care, preference for self-over professional care, fear, and distrust of western biomedicine, and the obligation to refrain from using formal services. These problems are complicated by geographical dispersion and dialect differences in the local Chinese immigrant community.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Chinese

Location of study:

United States

Age group:

mixed - elders, their caregiving children, health professionals

Number included in study:

50

Type of participants:

27 Chinese immigrant elders, 11 adult care giving children, and 12 health and social service providers

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: