

Reexamining the Relationships Among Dementia, Stigma, and Aging in Immigrant Chinese and Vietnamese Family Caregivers

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Reference:

Key Words:

Chinese, Vietnamese, stigma, family carers, stigma, mental health

Research aim:

This study examines the relationship of stigma and dementia among Chinese and Vietnamese family caregivers

Results/Conclusion:

Stigma was a common theme in the interviews (91%). Further analysis revealed two sources: the stigma of chronic and severe mental illness and a stigma reflecting negative stereotypes of aging or the aged. Chinese and Vietnamese cultural views of normal aging are not unitary but accommodate different trajectories of aging, some more and some less desired. When applied to persons with dementia, a "normalized" but negative trajectory of aging carried with it significant stigma that was distinct from but in addition to the stigma of chronic and severe mental illness.

Implications:

Older Chinese and Vietnamese with dementia are thus at risk of experiencing multiple stigmas that include but go beyond the stigma associated with chronic and severe mental illness.

Cultural Group(s):

Chinese, Vietnamese

Location of study:

United States

Age group:

Care givers of Chinese and Vietnamese aged 55+

Number included in study:

32

Type of participants:

Chinese American and Vietnamese American caregivers who provide substantial day-to-day care for a family member aged 55+ with dementia

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: