



The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education Teaching Health Center Consortium's Needs Driven, Culturally-Sensitive Asian Medical Home in Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Research Objectives

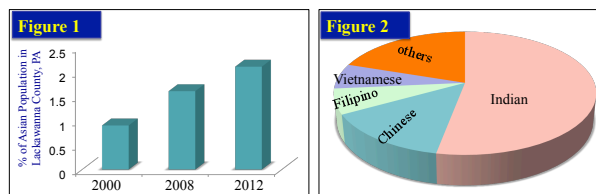
Increasing national diversity mandates provider competence to deliver culturally sensitive care to populations within their community. Enhanced appreciation of evolving cultural components of community health needs assessments can stimulate innovations to increase health services for diverse immigrant populations that challenge, but enrich, clinical delivery leaning venues within previously homogenous communities.

Study Design/ Method

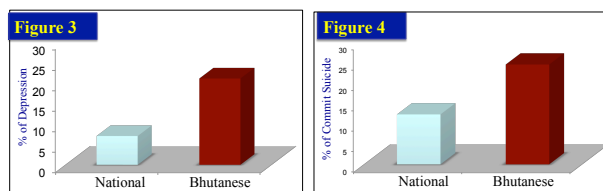
Observational data was collected from the United States Census Bureau, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton Refugee and Immigration Department, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other online resources. Research focused on evolving demographics of the Asian population in NEPA, including a Bhutanese refugee population in Lackawanna County, and national Asian focused health service models. Aim of the study was to create a project plan for implementation and establishment of a needs driven Asian Medical home in NEPA. Observational nature of available data is a study limitation.

Principle Findings

NEPA's Asian population has increased 175% over this decade, mainly representing Asian Indians and Chinese (U.S. Census Bureau). Figure 1 and 2



Research enlightened The Wright Center about existence of and lack of culturally sensitive health services for a Bhutanese refugee population within Lackawanna County, which has grown from zero to over 1600 residents since 2009.



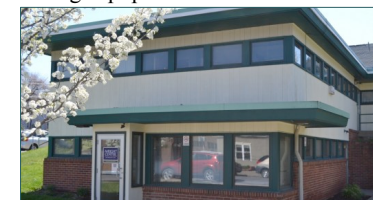
This grossly underserved population uses urgent care/emergency rooms for primary care, venues precluding meaningful patient engagement in preventative, chronic disease management, behavioral and mental health services. 21% of Bhutanese refugees are depressed; three times the national rate. 24.4/100,000 Bhutanese refugees commit suicide; double the general population rate (CDC). (Figure 3 and Figure 4)

Conclusions

Our NEPA Asian Medical Home will enhance access and mitigate barriers to health services for our regional, increasing Asian population. This innovation will enhance our graduate medical education primary care Internal and Family Medicine training, while leveraging various languages, cultures, heritages, religions, and political perspectives of more than 100 globally recruited residents, many from Asia. We are passionate about providing excellent healthcare, rooted in appreciation of patients' health habits, cultural health beliefs and practices.

Impact on Health Centers

We have proudly just established the first Asian Medical Home in NEPA with focus on comprehensively serving diverse needs of Lackawanna County's underserved Bhutanese refugee population



The Wright Center For Primary Care of Asian Medical Home
640 Madison Avenue, Scranton
570-941-0630
Appointment available from Monday to Friday (8am-4pm)