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**The NIH AANHPI-HSIG Newsletter was initiated by Dr. Dan Xi and led by Karen Qi, Editor-in-Chief, with a team of editors, Dan Xi and Catherine Yu. The bi-monthly newsletter, first issued on November 9, 2021, featuring news and events related to the NIH and AANHPI-HSIG, as well as publications about AANHPI health research in PubMed, is produced by the AANHPI-HSIG science communication group and distributed through NIH AANHPI-HSIG mailing listservs to AAPI-HEALTH-SIG@LIST.NIH.GOV and other email lists to extramural communities.**

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# LETTER FROM THE AANHPI-HSIG LEADERSHIP TEAM

**NIH Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group (AANHPI-HSIG)** <https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>

*By Dan Xi, PhD; Ming Lei, PhD; Paul Liu, MD, PhD; Ramesh Vemuri, PhD and Yihong Ye, PhD*

Happy 2022!

In 1999, the White House established its first Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to improve their quality of life and opportunities to participate in federal programs (ref. 1). On May 28, 2021, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) was reinstated and reinvigorated to advance equity, justice, and opportunity. This initiative was later launched by HHS on Dec 9th, 2021 (ref. 2).

NIH has established the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group (NIH AAPI-HSIG) in April 2021, which has now renamed as "AANHPI-HSIG" in line with the White House initiative. AANHPI-HSIG's mission is to advance the NIH's mission to improve the health and well-being of AA and NHPI (ref. 3). It serves as an NIH high-quality trusted resource for advancing research and education. It also provides a scientific exchange and collaboration platform for assemblies of scientists and staff at the NIH, HHS, extramural academia, and/or other federal and non-federal entities. The many different activities are voluntarily led by NIH staff and fellows. With the support of the NIH community and its outreach programs, the NIH AANHPI-HSIG provides one of the best opportunities to achieve the stated goals and make great contributions to science and research in 2022.

In 2021, several activities or projects were initiated, including: (1) the 1st NIH scientific seminar series focusing on education, scientific collaboration and assessment of AANHPI health research needs; (2) the 1st AAPI-HSIG newsletter; (3) a portfolio analysis of NIH AANHPI research; and (4) the new, upcoming annual NIH AANHPI Health Research Symposium to celebrate AANHPI-Heritage Month in May, highlight scientific achievements in AANHPI health research, provide training, foster collaboration, and inform NIH leadership of research needs. In 2022, additional projects are on the way, including the 1st culturally relevant NIH AANHPI Mental Health and Well-Being Speaker Series for education and assessment of research needs. Additional focuses will be to provide leadership opportunities for NIH fellows and junior scientists. The NIH AANHPI Research Strategic Plan Recommendation Committee led by an AANHPI-HSIG leadership team and various advisors will establish a Trans-NIH Working Group to provide input to the NIH leadership on research priorities that are consistent with the recent WHIAANHPI.

Thank you for volunteering your time and talent! Thank you for your input and support!

For NIH and HHS staff, please subscribe to the AANHPI-HSIG listserv for news or news sharing at [Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group Listserv home page](#), then click the "Subscribe or Unsubscribe" link in the right sidebar.

## References:

1. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1999-06-10/pdf/99-14901.pdf>
2. [White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders \(WHIAANHPI\). | HHS.gov](#)
3. <https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>

# NEWS & EVENTS

## *Scientific News*

**1. December 20, 2021, President Biden announced the 23 new commissioners of the President's Advisory Commission on AANHPI:** [President Biden Announces Intent to Appoint Commissioners to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders | The White House](#)

**2. DECEMBER 7 & 9, 2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted COVID-19, Health Equity, and the Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Communities: A Workshop.** Recordings can be found here: [COVID-19 Health Equity and the Asian American Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian Communities A Workshop | National Academies](#)

**NIH Grant Funding Information Website:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

## *Upcoming Events*

**Happening TODAY! Year in Review with Vice President Kamala Harris & AA and NHPI Stakeholders**

**Today from 2:45-3:15pm ET**

To register or read more about the event, use this [link](#).

**Save the Date! The NIH AANHPI Mental Health and Well-Being Project's 2nd Mental Health and Well-Being Webinar**

**Additional details will be announced via the AANHPI HSIG listserv.**

**Webinar Host:** Catherine Yu, CRTA Fellow, NCI

**March 30th, 2022 from 2-3pm ET**

**Save the Date! The NIH AANHPI Mental Health and Well-Being Project's 3rd Mental Health and Well-Being Webinar**

**"Mental Health and Well-being for Health Care Professionals"**

**Speaker:** Dr. Ann Berger, MD, MSN

Chief of Pain and Palliative Care

National Institutes of Health Clinical Center

**Webinar Host:** Dan Xi, PhD. Chair, NIH AANHPI-HSIG

**April 22, 2022 from 1-2pm ET**

**NIH Calendar of Events Website:** <https://calendar.nih.gov/>

## Past Events

**In 2022, the NIH AANHPI Mental Health and Well-Being Project will host its 1st Speaker Series.**

**Speaker: Dr. Joel Wong, Topic: "AAPI Mental Health: Progress and Prospects"**

Recording can be found [here](#).

**Webinar Host:** Catherine Yu, CRTA Fellow, NCI

**Abstract:** Dr. Joel Wong will address risk and protective factors for AAPI mental health, drawing from his research on the intersection of race and gender, racism, Asian cultural values, and suicide-related outcomes in Asian American and AAPI communities. Dr. Wong will highlight unique risk factors in AAPI communities, such as low levels of psychological help seeking, gendered racism, COVID-19 anti-Asian racism, and interpersonal shame. He will then focus, in particular, on what is known in the empirical literature on AAPI suicide-related outcomes. The talk will conclude with recommendations for future research.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Joel Wong is a Professor of Counseling Psychology and Chair of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Indiana University Bloomington. His research interests include Asian American mental health (especially suicide-related outcomes), the psychology of men and masculinities, and the psychology of gratitude and encouragement. Dr. Wong is a fellow of the Asian American Psychological Association and of the American Psychological Association (Division 17, 45, and 51). His webpage: [https://education.indiana.edu/about/directory/profiles/wong-y\\_joel.html](https://education.indiana.edu/about/directory/profiles/wong-y_joel.html)

**NIH AAPI-HSIG and NCI Integrative Medicine Cancer Health Disparities Working Group Co-Hosted Webinar: Dr. Mindy DeRouen, "Incidence of Lung Cancer Among Never-Smoking Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Females"**

Recording can be found at <https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>

**Summary:** Dr. Mindy DeRouen's presentation emphasized the prevalence of lung cancer in never-smoking AANHPI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander) female populations. Dr. DeRouen discussed the variety of factors that correlate with these lung cancer disparities, such as limited English proficiency and previous pneumonia status. Ultimately, the investigation of genetic differences across ethnic groups, greater understanding of lifestyle risk factors, and targeted screening practices will be essential in the prevention of lung cancer in this subgroup.

"The NIH AANHPI-HSIG aims to further stimulate important research in identifying risk factors at the tentative May 4th, 2022 AANHPI-HSIG Annual AANHPI Health Symposium. Characterizing mutation profiles across diverse heterogeneous AANHPI and non-AANHPI ethnic groups can inform cancer etiology, subtype identification, and precision treatment development for AANHPI never-smoking lung cancer females" Dr. Dan Xi comments.

### References

1. AAPI-HSIG Newsletter. November 9, 2021.
2. DeRouen, M. C. et al. (2021). Incidence of Lung Cancer among Never-Smoking Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Females. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, djab143. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djab143>
3. NIH RECORD January 7, 2022 Vol. LXXIV, No. 1; <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2022/01/07/new-scientific-interest-group-holds-first-events>

# PUBLICATIONS

*featuring papers published in November and December on  
AANHPI health and health disparities*

## [Opioid Literacy of Korean Americans in Rural Alabama: Addressing the Role of Social Determinants of Health](#)

**Hee Yun Lee, Eun Young Choi, Cho Rong Won, Jieun Song, Jamie M Gajos, Soo Young Kim**

[DOI: 10.1177/1043659621995902](#)

**Abstract:** Opioid crisis has disproportionately affected Alabamians with the highest opioid prescription rate, and it is subjected to affect Korean Americans (KA) negatively based on common predictors of opioid misuse that KA possess. Cross-sectional data of KA in rural Alabama (N = 230) were analyzed. Opioid literacy was assessed by the Brief Opioid Overdose Knowledge survey. Six social determinants of health factors were considered: financial status, educational attainment, English proficiency, household food insecurity, health literacy, and social contact. Participants had limited opioid literacy (M = 3.56, SD = 3.06). After adjusting for demographics and health covariates, higher levels of overall opioid literacy were associated with higher household income (B = .48, p < .01), higher levels of health literacy (B = .71, p < .01), and less frequent social contact (B = -.40, p < .01). Significant social determinants of health predictors varied across subdomains of opioid literacy. The findings suggest that culturally competent and community-level interventions are needed to increase opioid literacy in KA in rural Alabama. who were patients of the integrated health care system in Southern California and 4903 Asian participants at community hepatitis screenings were included in a cross-sectional study. Variables included HCV serology, HCV genotype, comorbidities, and coinfections. The prevalence of CHC was 1.3% in the general population (8271 adults) and 0.6% among Asians. The prevalence of CHC was significantly higher in the 1945-1965 birth cohort with 2.7% (5876) in the general population and 1.0% (313) among Asians (P<0.001). Asians had the highest rates of hepatitis B coinfection (2.9% vs. 0.2%, P<0.001). The distribution of genotypes among Asians differed from the general population with the most common genotype being 1b (27.5%) and a higher presence of genotype 6 (9.5%) (P<0.001). The presence of cirrhosis was 17.6% in Asians. Disaggregated Asian data showed that CHC was highest among Vietnamese and Cambodian and that genotype 6 was predominant among these 2 subgroups. The prevalence of chronic HCV was significantly lower in Asians compared with other ethnicities. However, disaggregated data among Asians showed the highest prevalence rates among adults from Vietnam and Cambodia.

## [Distribution and Correlates of Incident Heart Failure Risk in South Asian Americans: The MASALA Study](#)

**Nilay S Shah, Anubha Agarwal, Mark D Huffman, Deepak K Gupta, Clyde W Yancy, Sanjiv J Shah, Alka M Kanaya, Hongyan Ning, Donald M Lloyd-Jones, Namratha R Kandula, Sadiya S Khan**

[DOI: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2021.05.013](#)

**Abstract:** South Asian Americans experience disproportionately high burden of cardiovascular diseases. Estimating predicted heart failure (HF) risk distribution may facilitate targeted prevention. We estimated the distribution of 10-year predicted risk of incident HF in South Asian Americans and evaluated the associations with social determinants of health and clinical risk factors. In the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) Study, we calculated 10-year predicted HF risk using the Pooled Cohort Equations to Prevent Heart Failure multivariable model. Distributions of low (<1%), intermediate (1%-5%), and high ( $\geq$ 5%) HF risk, identified overall and by demographic and clinical characteristics, were compared. We evaluated age- and sex-adjusted associations of demographic characteristics and coronary artery calcium with predicted HF risk category using ordinal logistic regression. In 1159 participants (48% women), with a mean age of 57  $\pm$  9 years, 40% had a low, 37% had an intermediate, and 24% had a high HF risk. Significant differences in HF risk distribution existed across demographic (income, education, birthplace) and clinical (diabetes, hypertension, body mass index, coronary artery calcium) groups (P < .01). Significant associations with high predicted HF risk were observed for a family of income 75,000/year or more (adjusted odds ratio 0.5 [95% confidence interval (CI) 0.4-0.7]), college education (0.6 [95% CI 0.4-0.9]), birthplace in another South Asian country (1.9 [95% CI 1.2-3.2], vs. born in India), and prevalent coronary artery calcium (2.6 [95% CI 1.9-3.6]). Almost two-thirds of South Asian Americans in the MASALA cohort are at intermediate or high predicted 10-year HF risk, with varying risk across demographic and clinical characteristics.

### [A Qualitative Study of Sleep and Daily Routines From Focus Groups With Chinese and Bangladeshi American Older Adults Living in New York City](#)

Rebecca Robbins, Stella K Chong, Allison Tzu-Han Chou, Jiayi Yang, Alice Li Juan Liang, Nicholas Chanko, Chau Trinh-Shevrin, Simona C Kwon

DOI: [10.3928/00989134-20211109-07](https://doi.org/10.3928/00989134-20211109-07)

**Abstract:** The aim of the current study was to collect qualitative data to understand the nature of sleep and sleep difficulties among Asian American older adults and identify daily routines that may lend insight into modifiable targets for future nursing interventions. We recruited Chinese and Bangladeshi older adults with low English proficiency from community-based settings in New York City. Eligible participants were aged  $\geq 55$  years and reported China or Bangladesh as their country of origin. Focus groups were conducted in their native language. Participants completed a questionnaire before joining the discussion. Participants (N = 32) were 57% Chinese American and 43% Bangladeshi American. Average age was 73 years, 50% of the sample reported diabetes, and 22% reported sleep apnea. Our analysis revealed the daily routines among Chinese and Bangladeshi American older adults. Both groups reported general sleep difficulties and sleep difficulties related to health conditions as well as some subgroup differences. Future research may consider designing tailored nursing interventions to improve sleep among these groups.

### [Discrimination experienced by Asian Canadian and Asian American health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study](#)

Zhida Shang, Jennifer Y Kim, Shuliang O Cheng

DOI: [10.9778/cmajo.20210090](https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20210090)

**Abstract:** Asian Canadians and Asian Americans face COVID-19-related discrimination. The objective of this qualitative study was to explore the experiences of Asian health care workers dealing with discrimination, with a focus on racial micro-aggressions, in Canada and the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. We adopted a qualitative descriptive approach. We used convenience and snowball sampling strategies to recruit participants. We conducted individual, in-depth semistructured interviews with Asian health care workers in Canada and the US via videoconferencing between May and September 2020. Eligible participants had to self-identify as Asian and be currently employed as a health care worker with at least 1 year of full-time employment. We used an inductive thematic approach to analyze the data. Thirty participants were recruited. Fifteen (50%) were Canadians and 15 (50%) were Americans; there were 18 women (60%), 11 men (37%) and 1 nonbinary person. Most of the participants were aged 25-29 years (n = 16, 53%). More than half were nurses (n = 16, 53%); the other participants were attending physicians (n = 5), physiotherapists (n = 3), resident physicians (n = 2), a midwife, a paramedic, a pharmacist and a physician assistant. Two themes emerged from the data: a surge of racial microaggressions related to COVID-19 and a lack of institutional and public acknowledgement. Participants noted that they have experienced an increase in racial microaggressions during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have also experienced threats of violence and actual violence. The largely silent organizational response to the challenges being faced by people of Asian descent and the use of disparaging terms such as "China virus" in the early stages of the pandemic were a substantial source of frustration. Asian health care workers have experienced challenges in dealing with racial microaggressions related to COVID-19 in the US and Canada. More research should be done on the experiences of Asian Americans and Asian Canadians, both during and after the pandemic, and supportive measures should be put in place to protect Asian health care workers.

### [Dietary Information to Support a Healthy Pregnancy in Vietnamese Americans](#)

Vivian K Dong, Loraine O Walker

DOI: [10.1016/j.j.nwh.2021.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.j.nwh.2021.09.002)

**Abstract:** Because optimal nutrition is vital during pregnancy, there are specific U.S. dietary guidelines and recommendations for pregnant individuals. However, Vietnamese Americans often have insufficient access to dietary recommendations for pregnancy that pertain specifically to their culture and cuisine. Healthful components of the traditional Vietnamese diet include vegetables, herbs, fruits, fish, and some unsaturated fats. Adjustments to the traditional and acculturated Vietnamese diet, such as reduced sodium intake from fermented foods and sauces, less sugar, more diverse carbohydrate consumption, more fiber, and less fat intake, would improve overall health and potentially reduce the common pregnancy complications pregnant Vietnamese women face, including gestational diabetes and certain micronutrient deficiencies. Understanding the traditional Vietnamese diet can help nurses provide culturally competent care to Vietnamese Americans.

## [Teen, Queer, and Asian: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Asian American Students' Experiences in Schools](#)

**Michael Morgan Gorse, John Paino Bacolores, Jordan Cheung, Kris Tunac De Pedro**

[DOI: 10.1111/josh.13077](#)

**Abstract:** This study explored these experiences of LGBTQ+ AA California youth with mental health, school climate, and school victimization. Drawing from the 2016–2017 California Healthy Kids Survey (N = 326,124), this study utilized secondary data analyses to examine mental health, school climate, and school victimization among students of specific AA ethnicities (eg, Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese) and LGBTQ+ identities. The participants in this study included 7th, 9th, and 11th graders from California public schools, with subsamples of lesbian or gay students (N = 13,291), bisexual students (N = 30,127), and transgender students (N = 7916). The results indicated that Asian Indian, Cambodian, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, and Other Asian LGBTQ+ students experienced more negative school climate and victimization compared to their Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, and white LGBTQ+ peers. For instance, 41.1% of Cambodian transgender students reported they were beaten up compared to 27.1% of white transgender students. Mental health differences between LGBTQ+ AA and LGBTQ+ white students were also found. This study's findings can inform school administrators and teachers how to best support LGBTQ+ AA populations.

## [Stage and cancer-specific mortality differ within specific Asian ethnic groups for upper tract urothelial carcinoma: North American population-based study](#)

**Claudia Collà Ruvolo, Christoph Würnschimmel, Luigi Nocera, Mike Wenzel, Zhe Tian, Shahrokh F Shariat, Fred Saad, Paolo Verze, Ciro Imbimbo, Alberto Briganti, Vincenzo Mirone, Pierre I Karakiewicz**

[DOI: 10.1111/iju.14682](#)

**Abstract:** To examine the effect of specific Asian ethnic subgroups on stage at presentation and cancer-specific mortality in non-metastatic upper tract urothelial carcinoma among North American upper tract urothelial carcinoma Asian patients treated with radical nephroureterectomy. We relied on the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results database, from 2004 to 2016. Kaplan-Meier plots and multivariable Cox regression models predicting cancer-specific mortality were used. Of 584 upper tract urothelial carcinoma patients, 173 (29.6%) were Chinese versus 130 (22.3%) Japanese versus 68 (11.6%) Korean versus 64 (11.0%) Filipino versus 40 (6.8%) Vietnamese versus 109 (18.7%) other. Vietnamese and Chinese patients showed the highest rates of T4 N0 M0 and/or T1-4 N1-2 M0 (25.0% and 18.5%, respectively), relative to other Asian ethnic subgroups. In Kaplan-Meier plots, Vietnamese patients showed the highest cancer-specific mortality rate. In multivariable models, Vietnamese ethnicity also independently predicted higher cancer-specific mortality (hazard ratio 2.15, P = 0.02 and hazard ratio 1.96, P = 0.03), relative to Japanese and Chinese patients. All other Asian ethnic subgroups showed similar cancer-specific mortality patterns. Vietnamese and Chinese patients are at a stage disadvantage at upper tract urothelial carcinoma diagnosis, relative to all other Asian ethnicities. After adjustment for stage, only Vietnamese patients showed a survival disadvantage relative to all other Asian ethnic subgroups. As a result, it appears that Vietnamese patients not only present at a higher upper tract urothelial carcinoma stage, but additionally appear to harbor upper tract urothelial carcinoma that progresses at a faster rate than in other Asian ethnic subgroups.

## [Body Image and Eating Disorders Among South Asian American Women: What Are We Missing?](#)

**Neha J Goel, Brogan Thomas, Rachel L Boutté, Brahmpreet Kaur, Suzanne E Mazzeo**

[DOI: 10.1177/10497323211036896](#)

**Abstract:** This study used focus group methodology to examine South Asian (SA) American women's conceptualizations of eating disorders (EDs) and body dissatisfaction, and their perspectives regarding cultural influences on these conditions. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, seven focus groups were conducted (N = 54, mean age = 20.11 years, SD = 2.52). Themes (n = 15) were organized according to the amended objectification theory framework. Women described experiences of cultural stressors specifically related to living in the United States, and weight stigma from multiple sources, especially older women (e.g., mothers, relatives, and aunts). Participants also experienced pressures to achieve competing body and appearance ideals ("thin" and "healthy"). In addition, they reported pressures to possess light skin, dark black hair, minimal body hair, and marry young, and noted these pressures negatively impacted their body esteem. Findings indicate that a combination of "traditional" and culturally-influenced factors are important to consider when conceptualizing eating pathology and body image in young SA American women.

### [Racial Stereotypes and Asian American Youth Paradox](#)

**Michael Park, Yoonsun Choi, Hyung Chol Yoo, Miwa Yasui, David Takeuchi**

[DOI: 10.1007/s10964-021-01519-8](#)

**Abstract:** Asian Americans are simultaneously stereotyped as a perpetual foreigner and a model minority. This cross-sectional study of 308 Filipino American youth (mean age 18 years; 47% emerging adult; 72% U.S.-born; 57% female) and 340 Korean American youth (mean age 18 years; 39% emerging adult; 59% U.S.-born; 49% female) is the first to investigate both the direct and interactive effects of these seemingly opposite stereotypes on internalizing and externalizing outcomes, and how these relations differ by ethnicity, age group (adolescence vs. emerging adulthood), and nativity (foreign-born vs. U.S.-born). The results confirm that the perpetual foreigner stereotype predicts more internalizing problems, whereas aspects of the model minority stereotype (i.e., achievement orientation and unrestricted mobility) had different effects by ethnicity. Those who deeply internalize the model minority stereotype were found to be particularly vulnerable. Furthermore, the interactive effects of these stereotypes were more prominent during emerging adulthood than in adolescence, regardless of ethnicity. These nuanced and complex mechanisms need to be thoroughly understood in order to develop appropriate and effective public health or school interventions that can support Asian American young people in dealing with the harmful effects of racial stereotypes.

### [Debunking the myth of low behavioral risk among Asian Americans: The case of alcohol use](#)

**Audrey Hang Hai, Christina S Lee, Rachel John, Michael G Vaughn, Ai Bo, Patrick Ho Lam Lai, Christopher P Salas-Wright**

[DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.109059](#)

**Abstract:** Asian Americans (AAs) are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the United States. There is a paucity of research on alcohol-related problems among AAs. However, alcohol use and misuse are a growing concern within this population and are associated with adverse health and mental health consequences. Using data from the 2015–2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), we examined the prevalence, psycho-social-behavioral correlates, and gender differences in drinking, binge drinking, and alcohol use disorder (AUD) among AA adolescents and adults. We also estimated the prevalence of binge drinking and AUD by country of origin and nativity. Older adolescents (15–17) had the highest prevalence of past-month drinking (8.00%), binge drinking (4.3%), and AUD (1.8%). Among AA adults, the highest rates of binge drinking (23.0%) and AUD (7.2%) were observed among young adults ages 18–25. The highest rates of binge drinking and AUD were observed among US-born Korean Americans (binge drinking: 26.9%, AUD: 13.1%) and US-born Filipino Americans (binge drinking: 25.9%, AUD: 6.2%). Contrary to the common perception that AA is a low-risk group for alcohol problems, we found that AA young adults, US-born Korean, Filipino, and Indian Americans have a high risk for drinking, binge drinking, and/or AUD. We also identified risk and protective factors against alcohol use/misuse among AAs. Preventions and interventions that incorporate the important risk/protective factors for AAs using a culturally sensitive approach are needed.

### [Asian Pacific Americans Living with HIV Who Were Smuggled Immigrants: A Qualitative Study](#)

**Feifei Huang, Wei-Ti Chen, Cheng-Shi Shiu, Wenxiu Sun, Abigail Radaza, Lance Toma, Binh Vinh Luu, Judy Ah-Yune**

[DOI: 10.1177/10547738211008572](#)

**Abstract:** Migrant smuggling is a humanitarian crisis that impacts public health. A limited number of studies have focused on the links between migrant smuggling and its impact on the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, for those smuggled. To explore these links, we conducted in-depth interviews with 11 Asian and Pacific Americans (APA) living with HIV in New York and Los Angeles. Qualitative content analysis revealed that smuggled immigrants described their experience as one with opportunity and danger. Smuggled immigrants, who aimed to achieve their American dream, were influenced by hometown pioneers who successfully journeyed to the United States and by the prospect of gaining legal status through immigration policy similar to the 1986 amnesty. Unfortunately, the long and dangerous journey exposed the immigrants to health problems, including risk for HIV. Thus, health care providers for immigrants should assess their migration routes and screen for infectious diseases.



## [Factors Influencing Mammography Uptake Following a Screening Intervention among Asian American Women: A Systematic Review](#)

**Min Kyeong Jang, Davyd W Chung, Tamara Hamlish, Esther Rhee, Asha Mathew, Hongjin Li, Ardith Z Doorenbos**

[DOI: 10.1007/s10903-021-01172-0](#)

**Abstract:** Asian American women, both immigrant and US-born, are known to have low mammography screening rates. To reduce health disparities and address community health needs, we undertook a systematic review to identify factors that affect mammography uptake among Asian American women following a mammography screening intervention. Following the PRISMA guidelines, we searched four databases and selected 12 studies that met our inclusion criteria. We identified 22 relevant factors and developed a new conceptual model that comprehensively captures these sociodemographic; cultural; knowledge, attitude, and perception; health history; health care accessibility and availability; and intervention factors, including components and mode of intervention. This conceptual model can be used to guide development of interventions that effectively promote mammography screening. Future research should focus on the effect of acculturation on screening behaviors and the importance of culturally tailored intervention and information-sharing elements to improving mammography screening among Asian Americans.

## [Prevalence and Characteristics of Chronic Hepatitis C Among Asian Americans Are Distinct From Other Ethnic Groups](#)

**Andy Tien, Amandeep Sahota, Su-Jau Yang, Ronald Balbuena, Mimi Chang, Carolina Lim, Tse-Ling Fong**

[DOI: 10.1097/MCG.0000000000001447](#)

**Abstract:** The goal of this study was to determine the prevalence and characteristics of chronic hepatitis C (CHC) among Asian Americans compared with other ethnicities. Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) affects an estimated 2.7 million in the United States, but there are limited data on HCV among Asian Americans. A total of 3,369,881 adults over the age of 18 who were patients of the integrated health care system in Southern California and 4903 Asian participants at community hepatitis screenings were included in a cross-sectional study. Variables included HCV serology, HCV genotype, comorbidities, and coinfections. The prevalence of CHC was 1.3% in the general population (8271 adults) and 0.6% among Asians. The prevalence of CHC was significantly higher in the 1945-1965 birth cohort with 2.7% (5876) in the general population and 1.0% (313) among Asians ( $P<0.001$ ). Asians had the highest rates of hepatitis B coinfection (2.9% vs. 0.2%,  $P<0.001$ ). The distribution of genotypes among Asians differed from the general population with the most common genotype being 1b (27.5%) and a higher presence of genotype 6 (9.5%) ( $P<0.001$ ). The presence of cirrhosis was 17.6% in Asians. Disaggregated Asian data showed that CHC was highest among Vietnamese and Cambodian and that genotype 6 was predominant among these 2 subgroups. The prevalence of chronic HCV was significantly lower in Asians compared with other ethnicities. However, disaggregated data among Asians showed the highest prevalence rates among adults from Vietnam and Cambodia.

## [Mammographic Breast Density and Acculturation: Longitudinal Analysis in Chinese Immigrants](#)

**Rebeca Almeida, Carolyn Y Fang, Celia Byrne, Marilyn Tseng**

[DOI: 10.1007/s10903-020-01107-1](#)

**Abstract:** Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women. Asian American women have experienced steadily increasing breast cancer incidence rates over the past several decades. The increased rate might be in part due to acculturation. We tested the hypothesis that higher level of acculturation was associated with higher mammographic breast density (MBD), an indicator of breast cancer risk, in a cohort of 425 premenopausal Chinese immigrant women in Philadelphia. Generalized estimating equations accounted for repeated observations and adjusted for age, type of mammographic image, body mass index, months of breastfeeding, number of live births, age at first birth, and menopausal stage (pre, early peri, late peri, post). Results indicated that acculturation level was not associated with any of the MBD measures. Findings were contrary to our hypothesis and previous, cross-sectional studies. In this study population, reproductive factors had a greater effect on MBD than acculturation-related behaviors in adulthood.

### [Temporal trends and risks of small for gestational age \(SGA\) infants among Asian American mothers by ethnicity](#)

**Korede K Yusuf, Deepa Dongarwar, Dania E Alagili, Sitratullah O Maiyegun, Hamisu M Salihu**

[DOI: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2021.07.004](#)

**Abstract:** To examine the temporal trends and risk of small for gestational age (SGA) phenotypes across Asian American ethnic groups. We conducted a population-based retrospective study using the 1992–2018 natality data files obtained from the National Vital Statistics System. Joinpoint regression modeling was employed to calculate the average annual percentage change in SGA birth rates among Asian American sub-groups and NH-White women. Logistic regression was utilized to compute the adjusted odds ratio and 95% confidence interval for the association between maternal race (Asian American sub-groups vs. NH-White) and SGA birth and its phenotypes. We analyzed data on 2,821,798 Asian Americans and 62,174,875 NH-White US live-born infants. Overall, NH-Whites had the lowest SGA rates, while all the Asian ethnic groups had almost consistently higher rates during the 27-year period. Disparity in SGA births in the Asian subgroups was observed. Compared to NH-Whites, stratified analyses showed varying and significantly higher odds of any SGA in all Asian ethnic groups. Asian Indians had the highest odds [adjusted odds ratio (AOR) = 2.23, 95% confidence interval (CI) = 2.22–2.23] of any SGA compared to NH-Whites. Our findings support the evidence that Asian Americans are not a homogenous group and highlight the need to disentangle these differences when conducting population health research and interventions among Asian Americans.

### [Assessing Hepatitis B Knowledge Among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in San Diego](#)

**Siotame Lasitani, Christopher Hattori, Teini Elisara, Maria Rosario Araneta**

[DOI: 10.1007/s10903-021-01236-1](#)

**Abstract:** Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise 6% of the U.S. population, but 50% of chronic hepatitis B cases and have a cancer mortality that is 60% higher than non-Hispanic Whites. The objective of this study was to assess knowledge of HBV transmission, symptoms/sequelae and treatment among NHPIs in San Diego. Self-administered surveys were distributed using convenience sampling at the 24th Annual Pacific Islander Festival in San Diego in 2018. Overall knowledge scores were low (mean: 9.8 out of 28) among participants. Compared to U.S.- born (mean: 11.6), participants born in Pacific Island countries and territories (mean: 8.5) had lower knowledge scores ( $p = 0.017$ ) and lower self-reported vaccination rates (50% vaccinated vs 27%, respectively,  $p = 0.025$ ). Lack of HBV knowledge, low vaccination rates and the discordance between knowledge and behavior regarding HBV vaccination elicits an urgent need to collaborate with NHPI communities for HBV education, screening, immunization and treatment.

### [Intergenerational Solidarity and Being Primary Caregiver for Older Parents in Chinese American Families: Findings From PIETY Study](#)

**Ling Xu, Jinyu Liu, Weiyu Mao, Man Guo, Iris Chi, Xinqi Dong**

[DOI: 10.1177/10436596211004677](#)

**Abstract:** Guided by the intergenerational solidarity theory, this study examined how different dimension of intergenerational solidarity of adult children associated with their choice of being a primary caregiver for aging parents in the Chinese American families. Secondary data from PIETY study were used. Logistic regressions were conducted to examine the relationships between each dimension of intergenerational solidarity and the likelihood of being a primary caregiver to mother or father. Associational solidarity (odds ratio [OR] = 1.31, for father, OR = 1.27, for mother), normative solidarity (OR = 1.06, for both father and mother), and structural solidarity (OR = 0.95, for father, OR = 0.64, for mother) were significant associates of high chances of being primary caregivers for older parents. Results from this study confirmed the importance of cultural construct of solidarity in caregiving choice. Practice implications for health care professionals, in particular the nurses were discussed.

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **Call for papers: Special Issue on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health**

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From the Health Equity website: *"Health Equity is the leading peer-reviewed open access journal that meets the urgent need for authoritative information about health disparities and health equity among underserved and vulnerable populations with the goal of providing optimal outcomes and, ultimately health equity for all. With coverage ranging from translational research to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of disease and illness, the Journal serves as a primary resource for organizations and individuals who serve these populations at the community, state, regional, tribal, and national levels. Health Equity intends to publish a special issue on health disparities among AANHPIs or its subgroups since the pandemic. A prospective submission may address health disparities AANHPIs experienced in any disease or condition. Review articles, original research articles, and perspectives are welcome."*

*Deadline for manuscript submission is Monday, February 28th, 2022.*