

A Mode of Data Collection for Non-English Speaking Older Adults from Collectivist Cultures

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Background

- Racial and ethnic minorities experience health disparities.
- Increasing number of non-English literate older adults from collectivist cultures in the United States.
- Researchers and health care providers face challenges collecting health data from non-English literate older adults.
- More research is needed to develop culturally appropriate data collection tools.
- Sample rationale: Older Hmong
 - ✓ Collectivist culture
 - ✓ Migrant
 - ✓ Non-English speaking and non-literate in their first language

Purpose

- Determine feasibility and acceptability of a culturally tailored data collection mode using:
- Oral survey delivery
 - Color response items
 - Inclusion of family member helper

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Data Collection Tool

Qualtrics:12-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-12)



Methods

- **Design:** Mixed-methods
- **Sample:** 30 older Hmong & 30 Hmong family helpers
- **Setting:** community centers & home
- **Data Collection:**
 - ✓ Audio computer assisted self-interviewing with color-coded response items and helper assistance (ACASI-H)
 - ✓ Video recording
 - ✓ Follow-up interviews

Results

- All 30 dyads completed the 13-item instrument with **zero missing data**
- ACASI-H completion time: between 11 and 50 minutes (**average of 20 min**)

Feasibility of ACASI-H

- **Questions consistent with health experience**
 - "It [the survey] ask you like at the hospital, like what hurts the most... So this [survey] is the same as that." (Elder 5)
- **Interface is user friendly**
 - "The volume is high enough, and I can listen to it." (Elder 13)
- **Lack computer experience**
 - "I have never touched it [the laptop] before..." (Elder 2)

Feasibility of the Hmong Pre-Recorded Audio Translation of Questions

- 29 out of 30 (90%) used the Hmong translation
- Frequency of times the Hmong translation was played 8-13 (mean of 12)
- Translation was **clear and understandable** in the Hmong language
 - "The translation was clear" (Elder 1)

Acceptability of Response Categories Labeled With Color

- **Pros**
 - Useful substitution for words
 - Increase recall
- **Cons**
 - Cultural associations
 - Distracting
 - "I do like it [the colored response items]. If there is no colors then I wouldn't know how to answer." Elder 27)

Acceptability of Family Member Inclusion

- Older Hmong confirmed family helper was helpful.
- **Helper roles:**
 - Assist in navigating the technology
 - Provide clarifications when older Hmong do not understand the question & color response categories
 - Help select most accurate response for each question

Discussion

- This mode of data collection was culturally and linguistically appropriate for both members of a family dyad, who differ in familiarity with the native (Hmong) language and comfort with technology and who live within a collectivist culture.
- Practice questions prior to taking the actual questionnaire may help familiarize older Hmong and reduce confusion for color coded response items