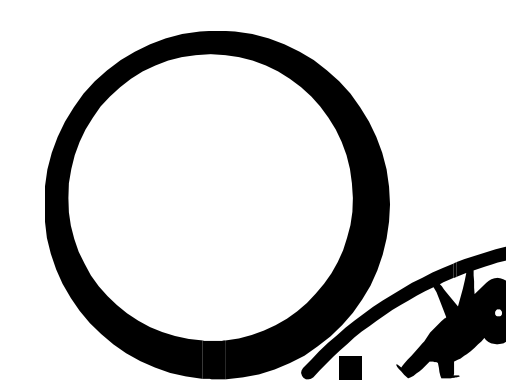


Background

- Conducting research with various ethnic groups that have different language needs than those of the majority population lead to complex social, cultural/individual factors that research teams have to keep abreast of when designing studies, (Asselin, 2013;Dua, 2000)
- The choice of methodology and tools for data collection is vitally important when designing studies with populations who may have more socio-economically disadvantaged or have barriers to English language. Designing a tool that is simple, easily understood and completed and is presented in a safe environment should be attended to when designing research strategies (Kusow, 2003; Nuefeld et.al. 2001))
- Challenges can occur with any step of the research – such as recruiting, or getting the recruited participants to mail back surveys.

Purpose

- ✓ While conducting studies with South Asian (SA) population in British Columbia, we encountered multiple challenges in the clinical setting due to language, social/cultural barriers.
- ✓ This presentation will explore strategies that can help researchers increase the number of potential participants from disadvantaged population groups.



Conclusion

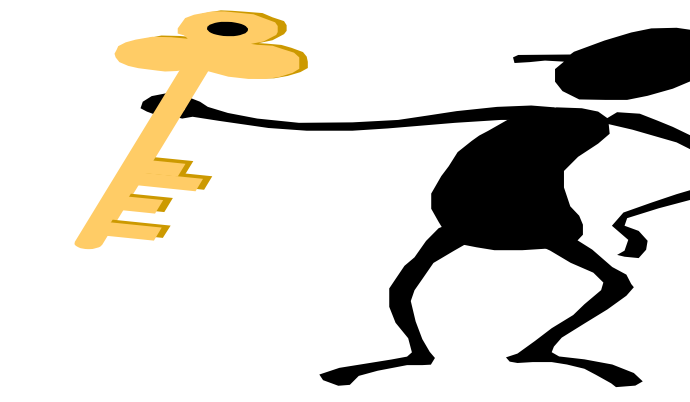
- This challenge in conducting research with SA population had several barriers which would need to be attended to prior to designing any study that required surveys to be mailed from home.
- Although having participants complete study surveys have their own challenges with any population, understanding cultural and social barriers is important.



Issues Encountered

- After implementation of the survivorship care plan, consented SA breast cancer survivors (BCS) were given implementation evaluative surveys to complete at home and mail back. These surveys not returned despite a second mail reminder and phone reminder.
- Participants were mailed surveys approximately one year after implementation for their survivorship experience. They were not returned despite a second mail reminder and phone calls. At this time a strategy change was made in order to collect data.
- Using interpreters to overcome language barriers led to participants' encountering social barriers when some interpreters were not directly translating questions related to potential psychosocial needs that held stigma to mental health
- Other barriers to a therapeutic social environment was created when participants' needed support from family/friend for transportation. Due to family's time constraints and timing of appointments, patients felt pressured to end the appointments, especially when some family members began pacing

Results:



Solutions Developed

- We changed our strategy and asked participants to complete surveys immediately after the appointment, but before they left the centre. Surveys were completed in the absence of the Breast Cancer Nurse Coordinator. Participants were provided with unmarked envelopes so the response could remain anonymous. This ensured surveys were done.
- We changed the strategy to requesting for a phone or face to face discussion. This strategy required the research team member of SA ethnicity to phone and to assist in completing the surveys at participant's home. Researcher ensured that participants had already received the surveys prior to the face-to-face visits.
 - Participants were generally eager to complete the survey, but felt they did not want to burden family members to complete the survey. This was because some were not always able to understand the translated surveys due to literacy.
 - This change to strategy ensured that surveys were completed, however this would require that projects have researchers who speak the same language as that of participants'.
 - Focus group interviews that were intended as an evaluative component for the post-one year implementation of care plan was changed to one-to-one interviews due to transportation issues and time constraints for participants, especially when they voiced their concern of burdening family members.
- A cue card was created with questions in the participant's preferred language. Interpreter was asked to direct this question on participants' potential mental health needs to ensure accurate interpretation. This strategy change in methodology led to a change in the amount of response on questions related to mental health from participants.
- Participants were advised to inform family members of the time needed for this appointment at the time of appointments

