A Descriptive Analysis of Uninsurance among Asian & Pacific Islander American Seniors

Krista Chan BA; Suhaila Khan MD PhD

Background
• Population projections predict an increase from 1 million elderly Asians in 2010 to 7.5 million by 2050
• Little is known about health care disparities among Asian & Pacific Islander (API) groups

Objective
• Identify disparities in health insurance for API seniors of Medicare eligible age (≥65)

Methods
• The Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of American Community Survey’s (ACS) 2013 1-year estimates were analyzed in STATA using ACS sampling weights
• Results were tested for significance using Pearson’s Chi-Squared tests, yielding p=0.00 for all reported results

Results
• About 3.8% of seniors identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islanders
• 4.8% of Asian seniors have no source of health insurance, compared to 5.1% elderly Hispanics, 1.5% elderly Blacks, and 0.4% elderly Whites
• Disaggregated data show Pakistani American seniors have the highest rate of uninsurance at 17.7% and Asian Indian seniors are at 7.1%
• These rates are much higher than the uninsurance rates for elderly Hispanics or Blacks

Conclusions
• Significant disparities remain for API seniors who should be universally insured by Medicare
• Insurance rates for APIs are skewed by averages
• Further research should explore barriers to insurance for API seniors

Limitations
• Lack of statistical significance for smaller disaggregated groups