

The Immigrant Experience: Challenges and Dilemmas



Asian / Chinese Elderly and their Families

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I have no relationships to disclose.

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But in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center



- ⌘ Service area – Greater Boston
- ⌘ 3 Senior Centers: Quincy Tower, Hong Lok House, and Brighton House
- ⌘ Outreach Sites: Brookline, Cambridge, Malden, Framingham, Lexington, East Boston, Randolph, and Quincy (COA, Senior Center, and Housing)

Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center – Services & Program



- ⌘ Social Services / Outreach
- ⌘ Nutrition
- ⌘ Adult Day Health / Social Day Care
- ⌘ Senior Community Service Employment Program
- ⌘ SHINE(Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone)
- ⌘ Healthy Aging Initiative
- ⌘ Family Caregiver Supports

Demographics—Asian Americans

(From Census 2010)

☀ Asian Americans in the U.S.

- 17.3 million
- 5.6% of total population (308.7 million)
- 46 % increase from 2000 to 2010

❖ *Asian are fastest-growing racial group*

☀ Chinese Americans: 4,010,114

- The largest subgroup of Asian American
- Concentrated in the metropolitan areas:

❖ *A greater proportion of Chinese immigrants are elderly.*

Filipino	3,416,840
Asian Indian	3,183,063
Vietnamese	1,737,433
Korean	1,706,822
Japanese	1,304,286

Demographics: in MA

(From Census 2010)



- ☀ Total Population in Massachusetts:
6,547,629
- ☀ Total Asian population in Massachusetts:
349,768 (5.8% of total population)
- ☀ Asian: 84,954 (32%) increase from 2000
to 2010

Demographics in MA:

(From Census 2000 and 2010)



☀ Asian Concentration in Counties:

- Middlesex: 91,685 to 139,943 (+48,258)
- Suffolk : 48,287 to 59,429 (+11,142)
- Norfolk: 35,756 to 57,803 (+22,047)

☀ Cities and Towns with the largest % increase of Asian: Acton, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Lexington, Brookline, etc.

Asian Population in Mass



☀ Asian Concentration:

- Boston 55,235 (8.95%)
- Quincy 22,174 (24.03%)
- Lowell 21,513 (20.20%)
- Cambridge 15,879 (15.10%)
- Malden 11,971 (20.14)

- Newton 9,790 (11.5%)
- Brookline 9,183 (15.64%)

Census 2010



	Total Population	Asian Population	Asian %
Mass.	6,547,629	349,768	5.80%
Quincy	92,271	22,174	24.03%
Lowell	106,519	21,513	20.20%
Malden	59,450	11,971	20.14%
Lexington	31,394	6,240	19.88%
Acton	21,924	4,067	18.55%
Westborough	18,272	3,188	17.45%
Boxborough	4,996	814	16.29%
Brookline	58,732	9,180	15.04%
Shrewsbury	35,608	5,451	15.31%
Cambridge	105,162	15,879	15.10%

Reaching Out to Asian Communities



Asian Elderly Immigrants and their Families - Challenges and Dilemmas

⌘ When ?

⌘ Where ?

⌘ Who ?

⌘ What ?

⌘ Why ?

⌘ How?

Immigration



- According to the U.S. Census, 70% of Chinese-Americans are foreign born.
- Compared to other Asians, a greater proportion of Chinese immigrants are elderly.
- The U.S. immigration policies have placed a heavy emphasis on family reunification by admitting immigrants based on the family-sponsored system.
 - In 2013, there are 55,628 immigrants aged 65 and over (65 to 74 years were 41,364; 75 years and over were 14,264) had obtained permanent resident status.
 - 89% of them (combine family-sponsored preferences and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens) were admitted to the United States to reunite with their family members, such as adult children or siblings (Office of Immigration Statistics, 2013).

Aging out of place

- Elderly Chinese immigrants
 - deteriorating physical health
 - financial strain
 - limited English proficiency
 - retain cultural/religious beliefs
 - inability to drive or access transportation
 - social isolation
 - acculturative stress
 - Family dilemmas (intergenerational conflict)



What can we do?

- With respect, compassion, and honesty
- Understand their cultural beliefs
- Solve service delivery problems (eg: Language/Transportation)
- ❖ *culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services*
- Outreach to their community
 - Outline the demographic profile of communities in Boston that have high density Chinese population.
 - Identify Community Based Organizations that targeted Chinese population (eg: GBCGAC)
 - Assess the CBOs' strengths, including their goals, structures, service technologies and programs, membership interests and characteristics, and task environment.

National Asian Pacific Center on
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Questions and Answers

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