Dissemination of geriatrics research usually occurs through conference presentations or publications viewed by colleagues in the same field. Older adults and their family caregivers have limited direct access to research findings. We sought to pilot a direct-to-caregiver workshop with the intent to disseminate geriatrics research directly to family caregivers of older adults. As part of an academic national conference, an ‘Updates in Geriatrics Research’ workshop is presented as a compilation of innovative research published in the prior year. We distilled workshop content into a lay format which was presented to family caregivers at two community-based caregiver symposiums. Mixed method surveys were completed by family caregiver attendees with open-ended responses analyzed using content and constant-comparative techniques. Of the 29 survey respondents, all were female, mean age 58.9 yrs. (range 52-72), providing care to older adults, mean age 87.2 years (range 66-97). Respondents unanimously identified learning information pertinent to their care recipient. When asked: Do you feel that direct-to-caregiver research dissemination is useful, all respondents selected yes. Open-ended responses for reasons why revealed two main themes: 1) Creating informed caregivers: “Caregivers need this information in their toolbox.” and 2) Empowering caregiver-advocates: “The more we know, the better we can advocate for our loved ones and challenge their health care.” Respondents all planned on sharing information with others, specifically family, friends, and physicians. In conclusion, disseminating geriatrics research direct-to-caregivers is feasible. Researchers, who present their work for scientific conferences, should consider translating their findings into presentations for community-based family caregivers.

DYNAMICS OF UNMET NEED FOR SOCIAL CARE IN ENGLAND

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Meeting individuals’ social care needs is a core element of UK social policy. However, the conceptualisation and operationalisation of ‘unmet need’ remain a challenge. This paper advances our understanding by incorporating a temporal dimension in the conceptual framework on unmet need to investigate the dynamics of met and unmet need for social care over time. Using data from Waves 6,7 and 8 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, this paper examines five possible trajectories among individuals with a social care need at baseline: 1) no longer having such a need; 2) having continued needs met; 3) delayed needs met; 4) newly arisen unmet needs; and 5) persistent unmet needs. The results indicate that amongst those with need at baseline unmet need has decreased over time, indicating that some needs may be fulfilled with a delay. However, a significant proportion of older people experienced persistent unmet needs, particularly those who were younger, living alone, with educational qualifications, and with fewer difficulties with Activities of Daily Living at baseline. Understanding the dynamics of unmet need can support policymakers in ensuring that those facing an elevated risk of persistent unmet need over time do not fall through the social care safety net.

EXAMINING PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS OF KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

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Introduction: East Asian Americans are considered a hard-to-reach population in the field. Existing resources are not inclusive of Korean family caregivers, and therefore, a community support system may be required for this ethnic group.

Methods: We conducted a telephone-based survey and in-depth interview with Korean family caregivers of persons with dementia (N=36; Mean age: 63.3) to examine their physical and social environments.

Results: Most caregivers (58%) co-resided with their care recipients. Those providing care with limited assistance from others showed greater financial hardship (p=0.03) and interference with employment (p=0.03). Job interference was further related to higher levels of caregiving burdens (p=0.01). The services used most were senior center services (25%) and in-home care services (17%), while desired services included health promotion and disease prevention services (50%) and culturally appropriate or medically tailored home-delivered meals services (31%). Caregivers socialized with others using a multi-messaging app (i.e., KakaoTalk) with others. About 74% of them addressed they used KakaoTalk always (52%) or often (22%), and nearly half of them (47%) said they searched for caregiving information online. Findings from our qualitative interviews confirmed positive attitude toward the use of technology. Korean family caregivers showed a lack of knowledge of not only existing community-based resources but also the disease-related information, particularly regarding early-stage support and home safety.

Conclusion: It is critical to develop a community education program that reflects their unique physical and social environment conditions, potentially through technologically delivered interventions, for outreach and engagement for Korean family caregivers of persons with dementia.

FAMILY CAREGIVING AND DEPRESSION AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN JAPAN: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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COVID-19 infections are particularly lethal in older adults; thus, social activities of older adults and their families in the community have been restricted. The threat of infection, restrictions on social activities, and limitations on the provision of care services for older adults could increase family caregivers’ burden and impact their mental health.