

How Well Will Empirically Developed Educational Materials Increase Asian Americans' Knowledge and Willingness to Contribute Biospecimens for Cancer Research?

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Introduction

This poster reports on preliminary findings to answer the question noted above. To realize the potential of personalized medicine we must assure that all populations benefit from the fruits of research in cancer therapeutics and prevention lest the cancer health disparities already prevalent among racial/ethnic minority populations persist and widen because of the absence of sufficient quantities and quality of biospecimens. The study aims to explore the cognitive and cultural factors that influence Asian Americans' decision to contribute biospecimens for research purposes by ethnic group.

Methods

In 2010 we administered questionnaires to Asian Americans to assess their knowledge of biospecimens and their cultural perspectives regarding contributing biospecimens for research during community events, through social networks, and at a community-based Asian organization. We analyzed our responses based on ethnicity, acculturation socio-demographics, and knowledge factors.

Health Behavior Framework

Socio-Demographics

- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Age
- Education Level
- Income Level

Barriers and Support

- Reason to contribute
- Reasons not to contribute
- Specimens most likely to contribute
- Informed Consent

Knowledge

- Biospecimen
- Past Experience
- Form of Information Dissemination

Acculturation

- Country of Birth
- Years in US
- English Fluency
- Second Language Fluency

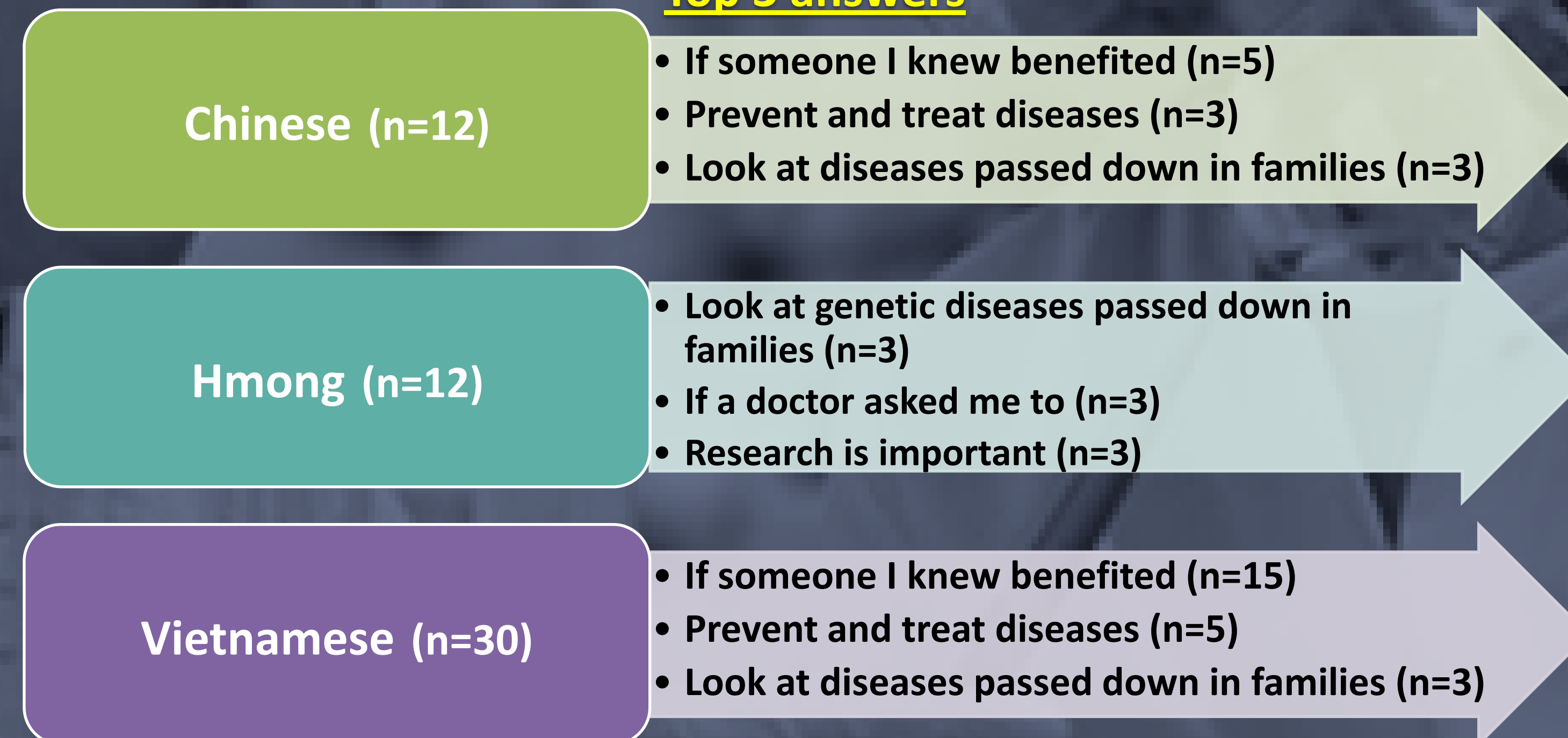
Results

Fifty-nine questionnaires were collected (36 women and 23 men). The ethnic breakdown of the respondents is as follows: Chinese (12), Hmong (12), and Vietnamese (30), and five from other Asian American groups. Findings in terms of rank order for preferences promoting biospecimen donations are displayed in the findings below.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Q15) What would make you consider donating your biospecimen to research? Please rank order the following statements with 1 being most important and 10 being least important.

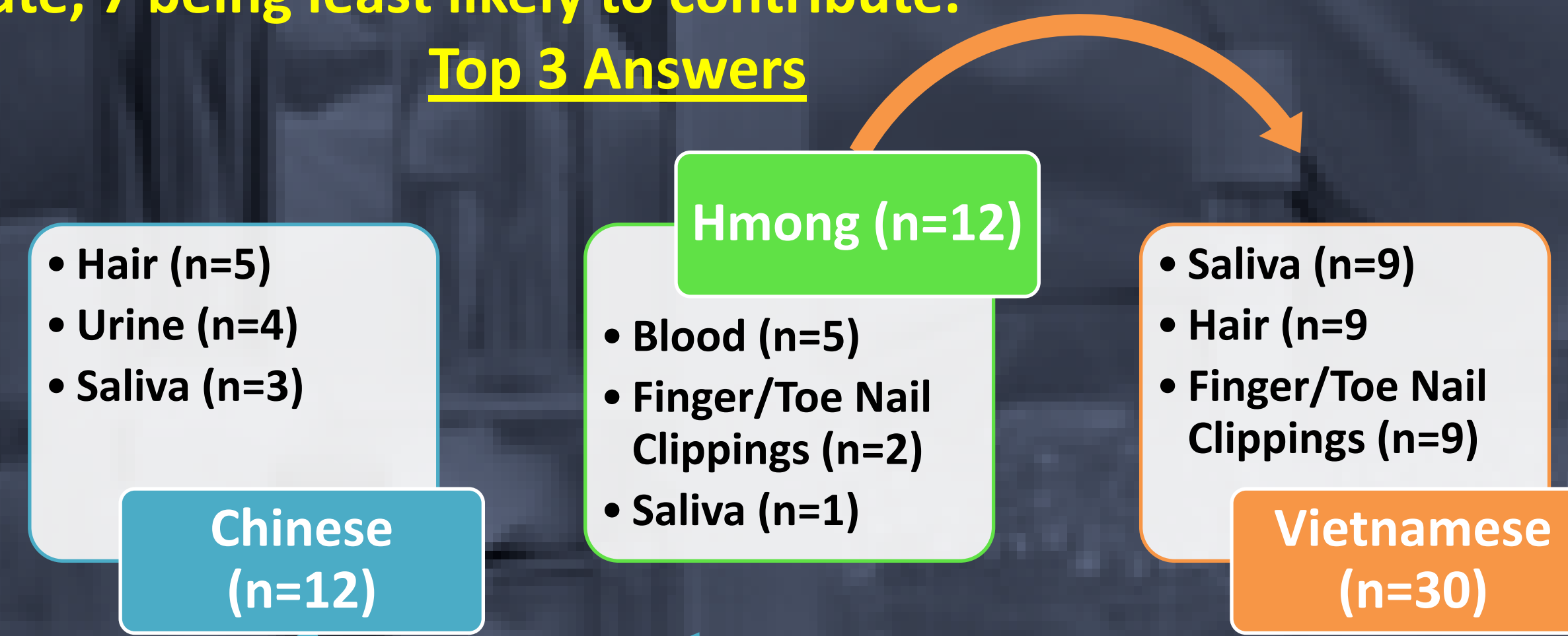
Top 3 answers



Number 1 reason across all ethnic groups not to contribute: If a government study asked them to

Q. 14) If you had to contribute your biospecimen, what type of specimen would you prefer to contribute? Please rank order with 1 being most likely to contribute, 7 being least likely to contribute.

Top 3 Answers



Number 1 specimen least likely to contribute across all ethnic groups: Tissue Samples

Q. 20) Would you donate your biospecimen to research? Likelihood to Contribute Based on Acculturation:

| Proportion of Life In US Among Foreign Born | |
|---|-----|
| >50% (n=27) | 85% |
| <50% (n=5) | 20% |
| USA Born (n=27) | 72% |
| English Language Fluency: | |
| Fluently or well (n=51) | 80% |
| So so or poorly (n=6) | 50% |
| Not at all (n=2) | 0% |
| Second Language Fluency: | |
| Fluently or well (n=40) | 70% |
| So so or poorly (n=16) | 81% |
| Not at all (n=3) | 66% |

Conclusion

This preliminary study based on a convenience sample of 59 Asian Americans in community settings revealed that a "one size fits all approach" to biospecimen education is not appropriate for Asian Americans. Each ethnic group has specific cultural factors that appear to influence whether they would donate biospecimens and the type of biospecimens they would donate. In order to increase the number of Asian Americans who contribute to biospecimen research we must customize education and outreach by ethnic group and consider differences associated with English language fluency and proportion of life in the U.S. in our educational materials. More research is also needed to address the different cultural and cognitive factors that affect each ethnic group's decision to contribute.

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