WHY DOES CULTURE MATTER?

- Institute of Medicine Publications
  - Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century (2001)
- Outcome
  - Disparity
- Recommendations
  - Care customized to patient needs and values
  - Patients as source of control

OBJECTIVES

- Explore ethnic and racial disparities in Alzheimer’s disease outcomes
- Expand knowledge of population diversity
- Introduce recommendations for addressing disparities in health and health care
THE FACE OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE IS CHANGING WITH THE GRAYING OF OUR DIVERSE NATION

DISPARITIES IN ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE OUTCOMES

- Whites = majority of cases
- Females = 2/3 of all cases
- Black and African Americans and Latinx or Hispanics populations = higher risk
- Genetic factors = do not account for differences among racial groups
- Social determinants of health and risk factors for vascular disease = likely account for increased risk
- Black and African Americans = less likely to have a diagnosis, quality treatment and planning
- LGBT older adults = 2X as likely to remain single as they age, 2X as likely to live alone and 3-4X less likely to have children for support
- Stigma and discrimination

INCREASES IN DIAGNOSES ESCALATES DEMAND FOR CULTURALLY-APPROPRIATE SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS
WHAT IS POPULATION DIVERSITY?

- Spoken language
- Values
- Socioeconomic status
- Race
- Gender and gender orientation
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Sex and sexual orientation
- Religious affiliation
- Mental and physical abilities
- Historical experiences
- Class
- Communication styles
- Educational background
- Marital status
- Military experience
- Work experience
- Parental status

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD: IMPROVING FRAMEWORKS OF CARE THAT ARE APPROPRIATE AND CONTEXTUAL

- Organizational leaders
  - Assess organizational culture
  - Consider healthcare equality index recognition
  - Model cultural responsiveness
  - Connect to the community
  - Bolster adaptive legal and financial planning
- Clinical health care professionals
  - Respect limitations of assessment tools
  - Expand ideas of family
  - Learn from narratives
- People with mild cognitive impairments and care partners
  - Demand system response

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE