

Smokeless Tobacco Use Among San Antonio Immigrant and Refugee Populations

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BACKGROUND

- 5.9 million adults in the US use Smokeless Tobacco (ST)⁴
- >30 products: paan, betel quid, chewing tobacco, snuff, guthka³
- High prevalence of ST in immigrant and refugee (Afghani, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Vietnamese, Burmese, Mexican-Hispanics) populations
- Linked to oral cancer, dental disease (caries, periodontal), overall morbidity & mortality



Study Aims

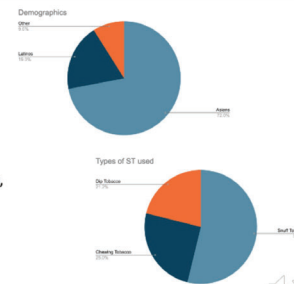
Gather information from the immigrant community (So. Tx)

- Demographics
- Prevalence of use
- Types of ST used and why
- Access



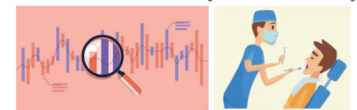
RESULTS

- n= 61 community members
- 84% male
- 72% of Asian ethnicity (primarily Afghani & Pakistani), 9% Latinos, 19% were other/preferred not to answer
- 28% of all participants used snuff tobacco, 13% used chewing tobacco, and 11% used dip tobacco,
- 40% of Asians used areca nut
 - 48% convenience stores and 27% from supermarkets



CONCLUSIONS

- High ST use among Asian refugee populations
- Dental practitioner surveys will be completed
- There is a need for an ST-tailored cessation program



METHODS

Recruitment Plan

- n=100 community members and n=100 practitioners

Survey

- 29 questions survey
- Enrollment 6 months
- \$20 survey completion

Community Partners

- SA Refugee Health Clinic & El Bari Community Center
- Supported by an IIMS Grant



Reasons for using

- Asian Ethnicity said to "feel happy" (48%) and for recreational purposes (46%)
- Latinos were more for cultural reasons (36%) or out of curiosity (27%)
- 56% of Asians compared to 36% of Latinos saw ST advertisements or promotions

Knowledge

- 98% reported knowing that using ST leads to gum disease/oral cancer
- Asians were more likely (89%) to understand use is unsafe for health, but 63% felt was less harmful than smoking
- Only 23% of participants were successful in their attempts to quit using ST



CITATIONS

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