

Project ECHO Nutrition & Brain Health Training for Primary Care Providers: A Stakeholder-Engaged SOARNet Study - Results from a Preliminary Community Assessment Survey

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Background

- Aging is the greatest contributing risk factor for developing Alzheimer's Disease (AD), which disproportionately affects minoritized populations.
- Culturally tailored nutrition programs can promote healthy eating patterns leading to better brain health.
- There is a shortage of programs to help prepare healthcare practitioners to address the knowledge gaps in nutrition and aging among older adults in Latino communities.

Methods

- 1. A working group was established, involving key stakeholders, healthcare providers, and a community health worker.
- 2. Primary care providers (PCPs) in San Antonio completed a 32-question Community Assessment survey to gather demographic information and details on their experience and training related to nutrition and brain health.
- 3. Goal: Collect responses from PCPs to develop a culturally tailored curriculum for four Project ECHO sessions on nutrition and brain health.

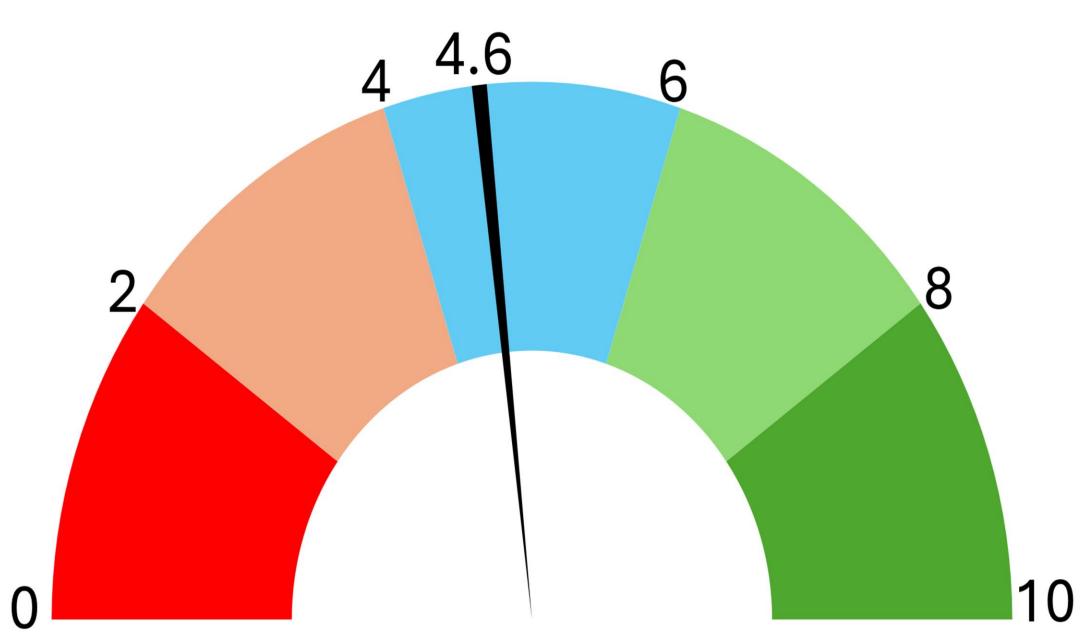
Results

- To date, N=12 PCPs have completed the survey.
- N=11 providers (91%) responded that nutrition is a contributing factor to poor brain health outcomes among older adult patients.
- N=12 PCPs (100%) responded that a training program for providers on nutrition and brain health would be beneficial.
- When asked about interest in attending the Project **ECHO Nutrition and Brain** Health Training, n=12 PCPs (100%) responded, "Yes, please tell me more."

Discussion

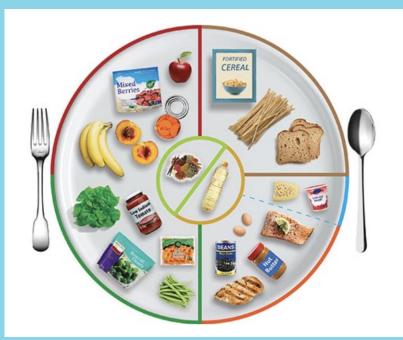
- Findings support the alignment of research with the needs of PCPs providing care to Latino older adults in South Texas.
- The inclusion of key stakeholders as members of the study team and working group was critical in the successful development of the Project ECHO Nutrition and Brain Health Community Assessment.
- The next steps are to create and develop a curriculum tailored to train PCPs about the connection between nutrition and brain health in Latino older adults.

Based on the community assessment survey, healthcare providers expressed a desire to engage in a tailored training program focused on nutrition and brain health to better assist and support older adults facing (or at risk of) cognitive decline in their community.



Average self-rating by healthcare providers about their knowledge of community resources for promoting brain health among older adults

Survey participants included MDs and NPs practicing in geriatrics, family medicine, and internal medicine in the South Texas region.



https://www.nutritionletter.tufts.edu/general-nutrition/updated-nutrition-for-older-adults/

MyPlate for Older Adults

- Choose a variety of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and low-fat dairy.
- Limit the intake of saturated fat, sodium, and added
- sugar. Stay hydrated by choosing low-calorie or zero-calorie beverages.
- Engage in regular, and moderate amount of physical activity.