

**Building on Past Successes:
Cancer and Tobacco Interventions in
Asian Community**

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Commitment to Change: Exploring Health Disparities
in the Asian American Community
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Why Asian Americans?

- One of the fastest growing groups in the US nationally (increased by 47% 1990-2000)
- Delaware Valley Region of PA & NJ, increased by 75%
- The second largest foreign born group in the US
- 61% of AAs speak an Asian language at home. Chinese is the language most commonly spoken at home after English and Spanish
- Percentage of AAs who do not speak English "well" (or at all)
 - Hmong 78%,
 - Cambodian 70%,
 - Vietnamese 61%,
 - Korean 52%,
 - Chinese 50%

A Closer Look

- Southeast Asians have the highest high school dropout rates in the U.S.
- Asian Americans tend to have larger families, earn per capita less than white populations. Some groups live below poverty line (national, 11.2%).
- They have High Uninsured Rate (*Commonwealth Fund, 2001*)
 - National uninsured rate 15%
 - Korean 52%
 - Vietnamese 32%
- AAs are less likely to participate in the US system (e.g. much lower voting rates than non-Hispanic whites; hence are less likely to participate in the healthcare system).

Cancer Disparities in Asian Americans

- Highest incidence rates of liver and stomach cancer for both male and female
- Third highest breast cancer incidence rate
- Third highest incidence for lung and bronchus and colon and rectum cancers for both male and female

Cancer Health Disparities, NCI, 2002

Cancer Disparities in Asian Americans

- **Cervical Cancer---** Vietnamese women, five times the rate for white women; Korean women, two times the rate for white women.
- **Late Stage of Cancer Diagnosis:** 79% of Asian-born Asian American women with breast cancer have greater proportion of tumors larger than 1 cm at diagnosis.

High Smoking Prevalence

	Ever Smoker (%)	Current Smoker (%)
Total	40.1	29.6
By Race:		
Chinese	29.8	24.1
Korean	45.9	26.8
Vietnamese & Cambodian	45.9	41.2

Grace X. Ma et al. Prevalence and Predictors of smoking behaviors among Asian Americans. American Journal of Public Health, 2002, 92 (1013-1020)

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

- ◆ 38.2 % of participants reported that there was at least one person smoked at home in last week
- ◆ 39.9% of participants reported that they were exposed to secondhand smoke at workplace in last week
- ◆ 57.6% of participants stated that it was allowed to smoke in restaurants that they often went to

Grace Ma et al. (2005) Preventive Medicine, 41, 446-453

Smoking Cessation

- ◇ 86% of respondents could not name a smoking cessation program
- ◇ 69% of the smokers had never been advised by a health care professional to quit smoking

Grace X. Ma et al. (2003) Awareness of cancer information among Asian Americans. Journal of Community Health.

How Did We Respond to the Community Needs?

- **Identifying Needs and Barriers of Tobacco Control in Asians Community**
- **Identify Needs and Barriers of Cancer Control in Asian Community**

ATECAR

Asian Community Cancer Network

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Target Population

Chinese Community



Vietnamese Community

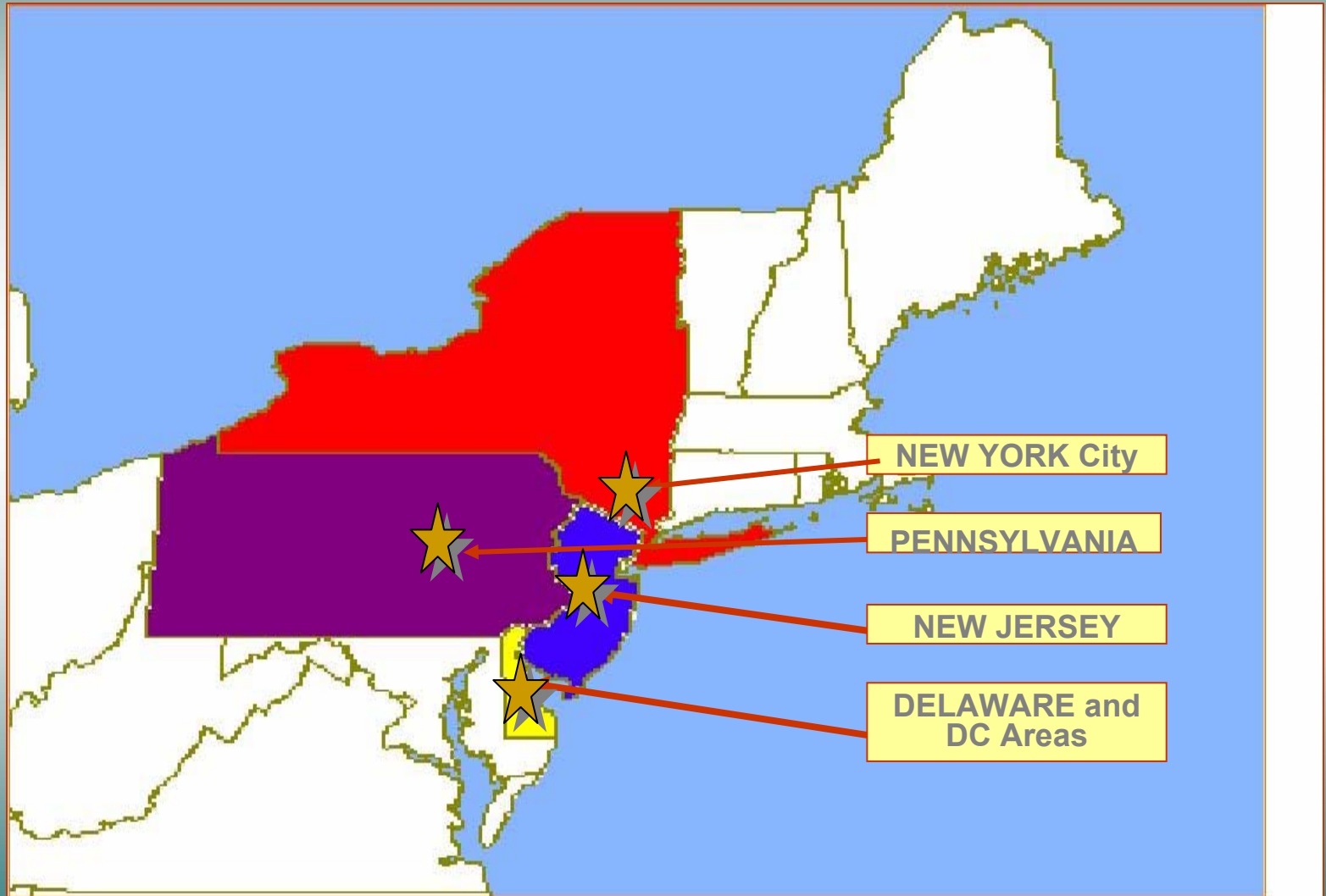


Korean Community



Cambodian Community

Geographic Area



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Get Community Started



Foundation of the Network
56 member organizations

Get Community Prepared

Critical cancer and tobacco problems in Asian communities

Importance of cancer control in our communities

Nature of research/Participant (Human Subject) Right-IRB

Importance of research data collection

Interventions Addressing Tobacco, Cancer and Other Health Issues

Cancer

- Cervical Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Hep. B & Liver Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Prostate Cancer

Other Health Issues

- Heart Disease
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis

Tobacco

- Smoking Cessation
- Smoking Prevention

Cancer Intervention Programs



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Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

Prevention



Cessation

Chinese



Vietnamese



Korean



Director of

Asian

Community Outreach



Media Campaign



Material Development



Why Successful ?

Milestones of Center for Asian Health

- 2000** **Center for Asian Health Established**
- 2000** **ATECAR-Special Population Network**
- 2000** **1st Asian Community Cancer Coalition**
- 2003** **Center for Asian Health New York Site**
- 2005** **ATECAR-Asian Community Cancer Network Awarded**

ATECAR-Asian Community Cancer Network



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Sustainability

One of the major challenges that faces all of us is sustaining the successful programs we established with the community partners.

How can we sustain these programs when resources are limited?

Long-Term Commitment

Thank You

Center for Asian Health, Temple University

2006