# A Mode of Data Collection for Non-English Speaking Older Adults from Collectivist Cultures

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## Background
- Racial and ethnic minorities experience health disparities.
- Increasing number of non-English literate older adults from collectivist cultures in the United States.
-Researchers and health care providers face challenges collecting health data from non-English literate older adults.
- More research is needed to develop culturally appropriate data collection tools.

## Sample rationale: Older Hmong
- Collectivist culture
- Migrant
- Non-English speaking and non-literate in their first language

## Data Collection Tool

**Purpose**

Determine feasibility and acceptability of a culturally tailored data collection mode using:
- Oral survey delivery
- Color response items
- Inclusion of family member helper

**Design:** Mixed-methods
- Sample: 30 older Hmong & 30 Hmong family helpers
- Setting: community centers & home
- Data Collection:
  - Audio computer assisted self-interviewing with color-coded response items and helper assistance (ACASI-H)
  - Video recording
  - Follow-up interviews

## Results
- All 30 dyads completed the 13-item instrument with zero missing data
- ACASI-H completion time: between 11 and 50 minutes (average of 20 min)

### Feasibility of ACASI-H
- Questions consistent with health experience
  - "It [the survey] ask you like at the hospital, like what hurts the most...So this [survey] is the same as that." (Elder 5)
- Interface is user friendly
  - "The volume is high enough, and I can listen to it." (Elder 13)
- Lack computer experience
  - "I have never touched it [the laptop] before..." (Elder 2)

### Feasibility of the Hmong Pre-Recorded Audio Translation of Questions
- 29 out of 30 (90%) used the Hmong translation
- Frequency of times the Hmong translation was played 8-13 (mean of 12)
- Translation was clear and understandable in the Hmong language
  - "The translation was clear." (Elder 1)

### Acceptability of Response Categories Labeled With Color
- Pros
  - Useful substitution for words
  - Increase recall
- Cons
  - Cultural associations
  - Distracting
  - "I do like it [the colored response items]. If there is no colors then I wouldn't know how to answer." (Elder 27)

### Acceptability of Family Member Inclusion
- Older Hmong confirmed family helper was helpful.
- Helper roles:
  - Assist in navigating the technology
  - Provide clarifications when older Hmong do not understand the question & color response categories
  - Help select most accurate response for each question

## Discussion
- This mode of data collection was culturally and linguistically appropriate for both members of a family dyad, who differ in familiarity with the native (Hmong) language and comfort with technology and who live within a collectivist culture.
- Practice questions prior to taking the actual questionnaire may help familiarize older Hmong and reduce confusion for color coded response items

## Methods

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