

2023 International Conference on Aging in the Americas

Health and Aging of Mexican Populations on Both Sides of the Border: New Research and Policy Challenges

September 13-15, 2023

The Andrus Gerontology Center, USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, CA, USA

The 16th International Conference on Aging in the Americas (ICAA) “**Health and Aging of Mexican Populations on Both Sides of the Border: New Research and Policy Challenges**” will focus on new research regarding life course exposures, physical and mental health, and social and economic wellbeing of aging populations in the Americas. Inequalities throughout the life course, including economic, climate, and environmental disadvantages, can influence inequities in health, including in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated physical and mental health issues of vulnerable older adults in Mexico and the United States. The 16th ICAA will address these challenges for older Mexican populations in the Americas. It will present research using new methods and data and cross-country comparisons, analyzing the effects of policies and interventions, microsimulation, applying rigorous methods for panel and quasi-experimental data, and discussing multimethod approaches to dealing with these issues. It will seek to understand the direct and indirect health consequences of the pandemic and other ecological disruptions on the health of older adults in both nations. History shows that in times of social disruption, resilience, formed by accumulated deficits and assets, shapes an older individual’s life course trajectory and their chances to achieve healthy aging. This requires adaptability, decisiveness, and economic resources. Government policy at all levels can also support healthy aging. Given that institutional capacities are a key to aging well, ICAA papers will focus on the influence of different economic and social policies, as well as institutional contexts in shaping and constraining decisions in both countries. The ICAA will also pay special attention to the role of family caregivers. Altogether, the 16th ICAA will help create an agenda of emerging themes regarding population aging in the Americas.

Questions

1. How do cross-country comparisons provide richer data to examine vulnerable aging populations in the Americas?
2. How do social and economic disadvantage across the life course in the Mexican-origin population affect cognition, Alzheimer disease, and related disorders (ADRD)?
3. What are the social and economic dimensions of resilience and their impact on physical and mental health, cognitive function, and mobility and care options?
4. How do climate change, pollution, and environmental exposures affect health and wellbeing of older adults?