**Presentation title**

Beliefs, knowledge, and healthcare engagement for cardiovascular health among west African migrants.

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

The increasing population of Ghanaian and Nigerian Australians will result in an increase in primary care encounters. Understanding their health beliefs and experiences will assist General Practitioners to provide appropriate care.

**Take home message**

* A thematic analysis of Ghanaian and Nigerian Australian migrants’ knowledge, beliefs and experience accessing cardiovascular healthcare will be presented.
* Propose strategies to improve cardiovascular primary care engagement for this population.
* Highlight areas for further research.

**Background**

The population of Ghanaian and Nigerian Australians has increased. In Ghanaian immigrants residing in Sydney, hypertension was detected in 40% of men and 17% of women; and hypercholesterolaemia in 71% of men and 23% of women. This presents a burden on the study population and the Australian healthcare system. The impact of migrant health beliefs on accessing primary care has been elucidated in other migrant groups in Australia. There is limited literature exploring the health beliefs, health directed behaviour, and health service engagement of African Australians.

**Aim / Hypothesis**

To explore perceptions and experiences of cardiovascular health and illness, in first generation Ghanaian and Nigerian migrants living in Australia.

**Method**

This study utilises qualitative descriptive method as articulated by Sandelowski. Semi-structured interviews informed by the social ecological framework will be conducted. Interviews will be recorded, transcribed, coded and thematically analysed using QSR Nvivo software via an abductive approach.

**Results**

The demographic characteristics and the views of participants on the knowledge and healthcare seeking behaviour around cardiovascular disease of west African migrants to Australia will be presented.

**Discussion**

To our knowledge, this study is the first of its kind in Australia and will guide further research in this population group.

**Conclusion**

This study will identify west African migrants’ cardiovascular health knowledge, beliefs and experiences seeking healthcare; informing interventions to improve their primary care engagement.

**References**

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