

Ethnic Differences in Elders' Home Remedy Use: Sociostructural Explanations

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Objective: To determine if ethnic differences in elders' use of home remedies are explained by structured inequalities. **Method:** Dichotomous indicators of "food" and "other" home remedies were obtained from a randomly selected cohort of older adults with diabetes (N=701). Analyses evaluated if differences in availability of care, economic hardship, and health status explained ethnic differences in home remedy use.

Results: Differences in residential location, discretionary money, and health partially explained greater home remedy use among Black and Native American elders relative to whites. **Conclusions:** Ethnic differences in elders' use of home remedies are not largely attributed to socially structured inequalities.

Key words: home remedies, older adults, health maintenance, ethnicity, culture

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