

PROBLEM WITH USA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR GEORGIAN IMMIGRANT WOMAN

Chigogidze L.

MD, Total Charm Clinic, Tbilisi Georgia

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Both legal and illegal Georgian immigrant women face severe problems accessing adequate healthcare in the USA. These challenges are economic, language-related, cultural, and fear of deportation, all of which result in severe healthcare disparities. These conditions affect not just their physical well-being but also introduce inequalities in preventive, maternal, and mental health care. These issues are addressed in this article more extensively and highlight culturally competent health professionals, policy reform, and immigrant advocacy in addressing these pressing issues.

Introduction

The promise of the American Dream still entices people worldwide, including Georgian women who travel in search of greater economic prosperity and a higher standard of living. Yet once there, most discover that accessing the basic services—particularly healthcare—is much more complicated and unaccusable than imagined. The sophistication of the American healthcare system, added to monetary pressures and institutional hurdles, complicates receiving good quality medical attention.

Documented and undocumented immigrant women from Georgia face unique challenges that impact their health in general. Some of these challenges are restricted affordable healthcare, communication difficulties with the medical staff, cultural medical stigmatization, and the constant risk of deportation. This article explores these issues and identifies possible solutions that will ensure all Georgian immigrant women receive the medical attention they need. Historical Context of Georgian Immigration and Healthcare Access

To fully understand the situation of Georgian immigrant women in the U.S., it's important to examine the historical and socio-political problems. Georgia, a post-Soviet nation, has undergone significant economic upheaval since the early 1990s. This has pushed many Georgians to seek stability and opportunity abroad. From the 2000s, there has been a steady increase of Georgian immigrants traveling to cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Yet upon arrival in the United States, many face systemic inequities, particularly in healthcare access. The roots of these inequities lie in broader immigration policies and the privatized US healthcare system, which has a tendency to leave out recently arriving immigrants—especially those without permanent legal status.

Financial Barriers and Limited Insurance Access

Maybe the most daunting challenge to Georgian immigrant women is access to healthcare. Even legally present immigrants have difficulty affording sufficient insurance coverage. Employer-sponsored health care

has lengthy waiting times, and private coverage is often prohibitively expensive especially for low or no-income immigrants, making regular healthcare inaccessible.

According to the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), lack of funds denies most immigrants access to routine health care. For this reason, many delay or miss care they need—especially preventive care [1]. For example, instead of reporting in on a regular basis for check-ups or screenings, they will only see a doctor during an emergency situation, leading to worse health over the long run.

For illegal Georgian women, it is worse. They are not covered by most public health care programs, such as Medicaid, and end up in emergency rooms, which, though legally obligated to treat them, are not a good option for long-term medical care. The fear of racking up enormous medical bills discourages many from seeking care, even for severe illnesses such as infections, diabetes, or complications of pregnancy.

Case Study: Delayed Care Resulting in Tragic Consequences

In some cases, delayed medical treatment has resulted in disastrous health consequences. A case in point is a Georgian woman who was working as a housekeeper in New York and developed unbearable abdominal pain but didn't receive any medical attention due to lack of insurance. When she arrived at the emergency room, doctors diagnosed her with Stage III ovarian cancer—a condition that would have been addressed in its initial phase by screening.

Nino's story is abominably normal. Without cheap health care, little issues turn into big ones. The above occurrences point to the imperative necessity of low-cost access to healthcare, especially for immigrant women who suffer from heavy economic pressures.

Language and Cultural Barriers

Georgian immigrant women and, more particularly, those with little command of the English language at the time of arrival have a big obstacle of linguistic barriers. Medical terms, completing complicated insurance forms, and communicating symptoms properly might be intractable. It largely results in incorrect diagnosis, ineffective treatment, and follow-up failure.

This gap results in misdiagnoses and non-adherence to medical instructions. Rely on family members or community interpreters, raises concerns about confidentiality and accuracy for Immigrant Woman.

The Need for Culturally Competent Health Care Providers

Cultural differences also affect the manner in which Georgian women perceive and seek medical

care. Georgian immigrants tend to come from a health care system where doctor-patient relationships are different from those of the United States. They may expect more direct involvement by physicians or struggle with the concept of preventive care, less common in some parts of Georgia. (Shioshvili, 2008)

Besides, the majority of U.S. clinics and hospitals lack Georgian-speaking staff or interpreters. Therefore, Georgian women find it hard to understand their diagnoses and treatment plans, which makes them avoid visiting the clinic or hospital.

Possible Solutions for Cultural and Communication Gap

- Increasing medical translation services in clinics and hospitals.
- Employing more culturally competent medical staff.
- Conducting educational workshops on how to access the U.S. healthcare system for Georgian immigrants.

Fear of Deportation and Avoidance of Care

For undocumented Georgian women, the threat of deportation is constant. While hospitals are legally required to treat all patients regardless of immigration status, many are hesitant to seek medical attention due to the "chilling effect" of immigration enforcement policies [2].

This fear is especially perilous for individuals with chronic illness, such as diabetes or heart disease, who require continuous medical treatment. Some of these undocumented women even skip prenatal care since they fear that hospitals will report them to immigration authorities. This puts both the mother and child at risk of serious complications.

Overcoming the Fear of Deportation in Healthcare

In order to encourage illegal women to seek medical care, policymakers and health organizations should:

- Improve confidentiality policies in order to reassure patients that obtaining treatment will not lead to deportation.
- Develop "safe spaces" in hospitals and clinics where immigrants feel secure.
- Provide legal assistance services to aid immigrant women to understand their rights.

Maternity Care and Reproductive Health Challenges

One of the largest problems for Georgian immigrant women is maternity care. Even for legal ones, obtaining prenatal, birth, and postpartum care is intimidating.

For illegal women, the situation is worse. Fear of being caught leads most to forgo prenatal examinations, which increases the risk of premature birth, birth defects, and maternal illness. Some horrific cases have been reported where improper treatment led to fetal loss.

In addition, reproductive health care such as family planning and contraception remains inaccessible to the majority of Georgian immigrants. The lack of avail-

ability of access to such services may lead to unintended pregnancy and adverse reproductive health consequences.

Solutions for Improving Maternal Health

- Expanding prenatal care programs among immigrant women, regardless of legal status.
- Increasing grants for community health centers providing low-cost maternity care.
- Pointing education on reproductive health towards immigrant communities.

Mental Illness Challenges and Absence of Care

The pressure of integrating into a foreign country, economic hardship, and constant threat of deportation heavily stress the mental state of Georgian immigrant women. A majority suffer from anxiety, depression, and PTSD but avoid being treated due to cultural stigmas regarding mental illness. (Mgeladze, Shioshvili, 2024)

More Immigrant Mental Health Services

- Culturally competent therapist training that is aware of the difficulties of Georgian immigrants.
- Mental health counseling at affordable prices in immigrant communities.
- Educating Georgian women on mental health awareness and stigma reduction.

Conclusion

Georgian immigrant women in the U.S. are faced with significant barriers to receiving healthcare, from economic deprivation and lack of language skills to cultural differences and fear of deportation. These must be tackled by an integrated policy solution that includes expanding access to affordable care, increasing the number of culturally competent providers, and reducing immigration-related fears in healthcare environments.

Closing these gaps and filling them will make America a better and more just healthcare system that offers healthcare to everyone, not just citizens. Healthcare is a human right, and granting medical care to immigrant women that they need does not only benefit them but society.

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