

# MAGPABAKUNA na Tayo!: Measuring And Gathering Data on Filipino/a/x American\* Behaviors, Attitudes, and Knowledge Understanding the Novel Coronavirus Vaccines

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## Overview:

This ongoing study investigates how Filipino sociocultural, occupational, and structural factors affect access to public health information and influenced health behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This poster provides background context as well as a sample of the insight obtained from its pilot study.

## Background & Significance:

Figure 1. Covid-19 U.S. Registered Nurse Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity

| Race/Ethnicity                     | Covid-19 Registered Nurse Fatalities | %      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total                              | 213                                  | 100.0% |
| White                              | 84                                   | 39.4%  |
| Filipino                           | 67                                   | 31.5%  |
| Black                              | 38                                   | 17.8%  |
| Latinx                             | 14                                   | 6.6%   |
| Unknown                            | 5                                    | 2.3%   |
| Asian & South Asian (Non-Filipino) | 3                                    | 1.4%   |
| Native American                    | 2                                    | 0.9%   |

- Filipinos are the 2nd largest Asian subgroup in the US<sup>1</sup>.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Filipinos held frontline healthcare occupations (EX: acute care, home care workers, non-licensed caregivers) which increased risk of COVID-19 exposure<sup>3</sup>.
- In 2020, Filipinos comprised only 4% of the registered nurses (RN) in the US but accounted for 31.5% of COVID-19 related RN deaths (Fig. 1)<sup>2</sup>.
  - Amongst RNs of color, Filipinos made up 54% of the total deaths<sup>2</sup>.
- COVID-19 may affect the Filipino population disproportionately due to the high prevalence of comorbidities within the Filipino population, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease<sup>4</sup>.
- Cultural practices, such as multigenerational residences, may also put Filipinos at an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission as they are nearly twice as likely to live in three-generational households than their White counterparts<sup>5</sup>.

## Aims & Objectives:

- Specific Aim 1:** Quantitatively assess the sociocultural, occupational, and structural factors influencing vaccine attitudes and barriers among the Filipino or Filipino/a/x American community in Chicago.
- Specific Aim 2:** Qualitatively characterize the health beliefs, health prevention, and health seeking behaviors among Chicago-based Filipino/a/x elderly, healthcare workers, and frontline caregivers with a focus on chronic disease and risk-factors for COVID-19.
- Long-term Objective:**
  - Contribute to the literature on vaccine hesitancy in immigrant communities and non-native English speakers.
  - Bolster health equity in future pandemic responses and better equip healthcare professionals to educate patients.

## Methods:

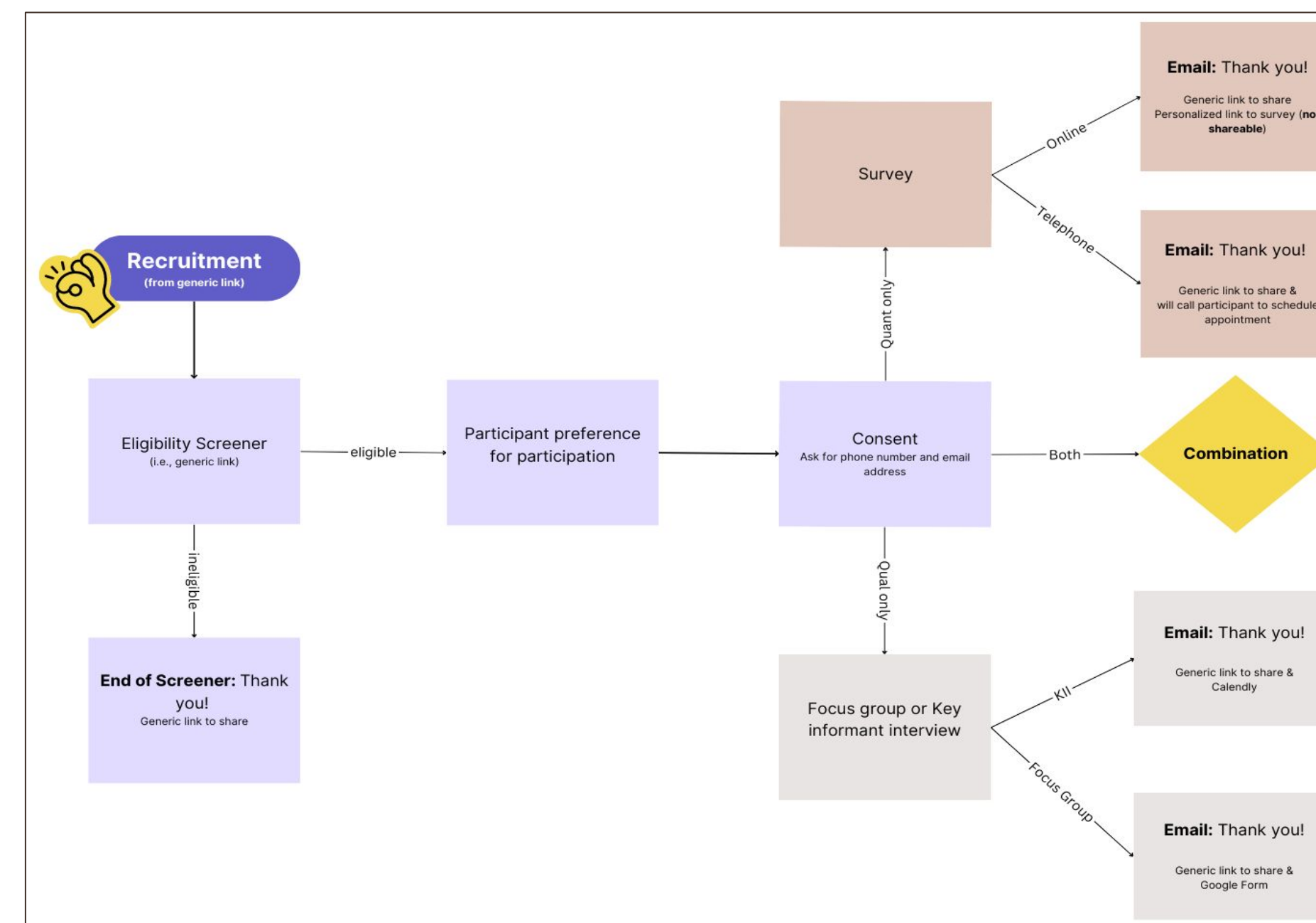
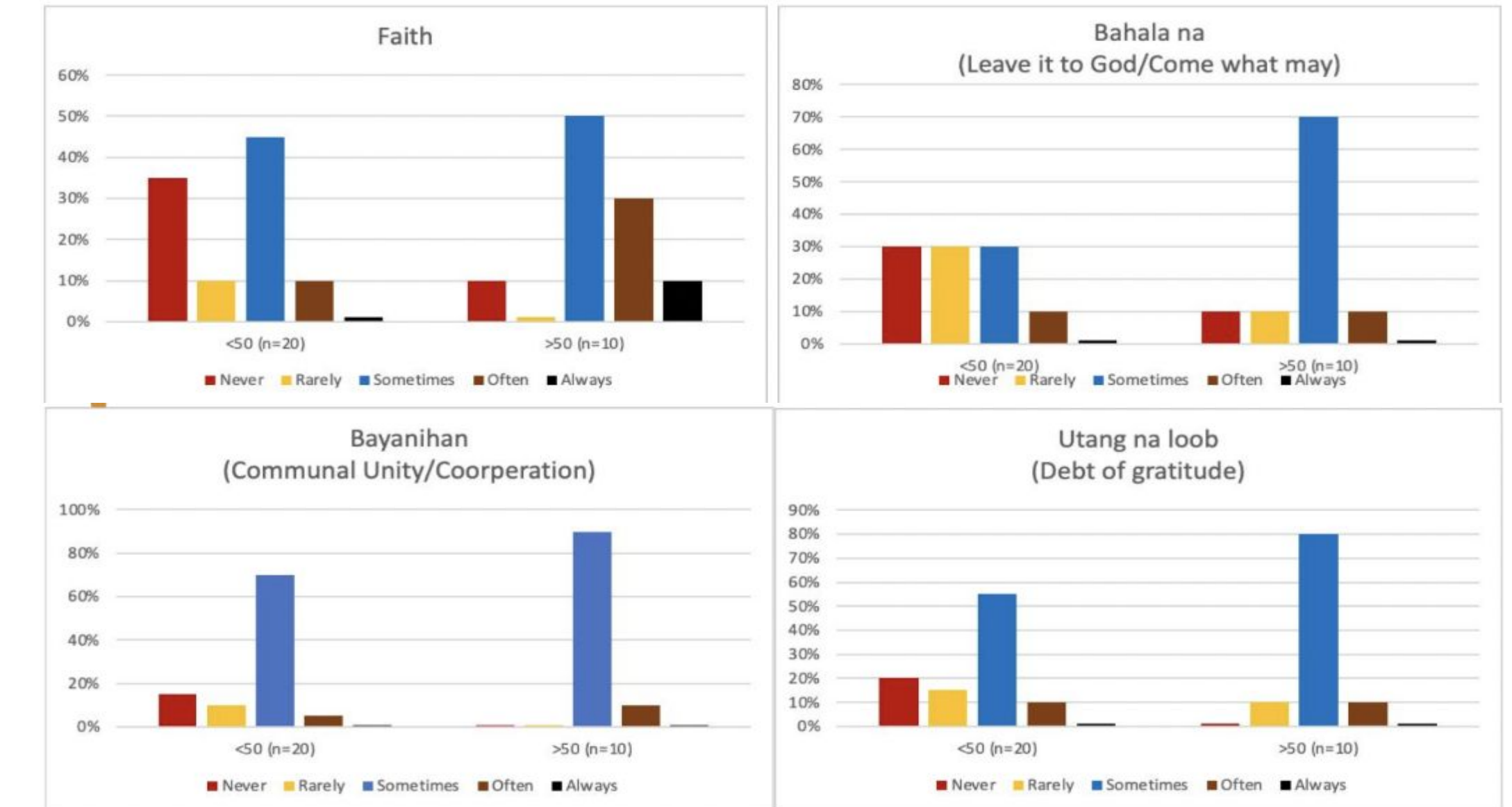


Figure 2. Workflow used to organize transition from different study phases.

- Setting:** Chicago or the greater Chicago area (including Cook, DuPage, Kendall, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties)
- Study Design:** A mixed-methods study with quantitative and qualitative phases.
- Participants:** Individuals who self-identify as being of Filipino or Filipino/a/x American descent, aged 18 or older, and residing in the Chicago area.
  - Focus Groups/Key Informant Interviews:** Groups comprised of frontline health workers, home care workers, and elderly (over the age of 65).

## Pilot Study Results:

- Conducted by Samantha Sumait, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC at Rush University under the supervision of Melissa Kalensky, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CNE



| Barriers to receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine  | Percent of Participants Agree |
|---|-------------------------------|
| I don't know enough about COVID-19 or the vaccines  | 96.7                          |
| I worry about minor side effects such as skin irritation, muscle soreness, low-grade fevers | 96.7                          |
| I worry about major side effects such as severe allergic reactions                          | 93.3                          |

## Conclusion:

- The pilot results indicate that Filipino cultural values such as *utang na loob*, *bayanihan*, *bahala na*, and faith influence medical decision-making across age groups, with a stronger influence in the over-50 age group. Vaccine access was limited by gaps in health literacy and medical information.
- This summer, study materials were updated for a post-pandemic perspective through revisions to protocols, consent forms, and surveys. Preparations for IRB approval and community outreach are ongoing.
- Next steps are participant recruitment and data collection.
- The pilot study and this project emphasize the importance of culturally tailored interventions, detailed planning, and community involvement in advancing health equity efforts.

## References:

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\*The term "Filipino/a/x American" in the study title reflects the original study design and acknowledges identity diversity, as well as the ongoing dialogue about cultural and linguistic appropriateness across communities. "Filipino" or "Filipino/a/x American" is used elsewhere for clarity and consistency.