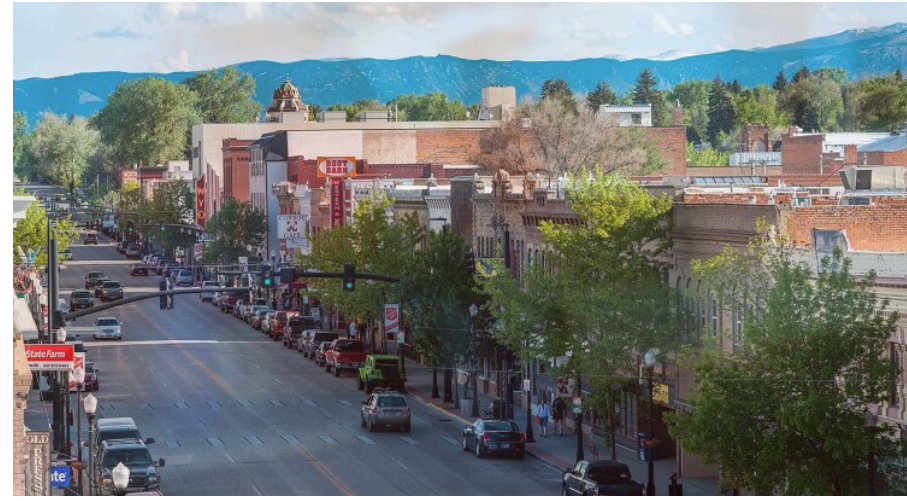


Can Forming a Dementia Friendly Community and Improving Screening Improve Social Health?

Daulton Grube || RUOP iii-3 || 2019 || University of Washington School of Medicine

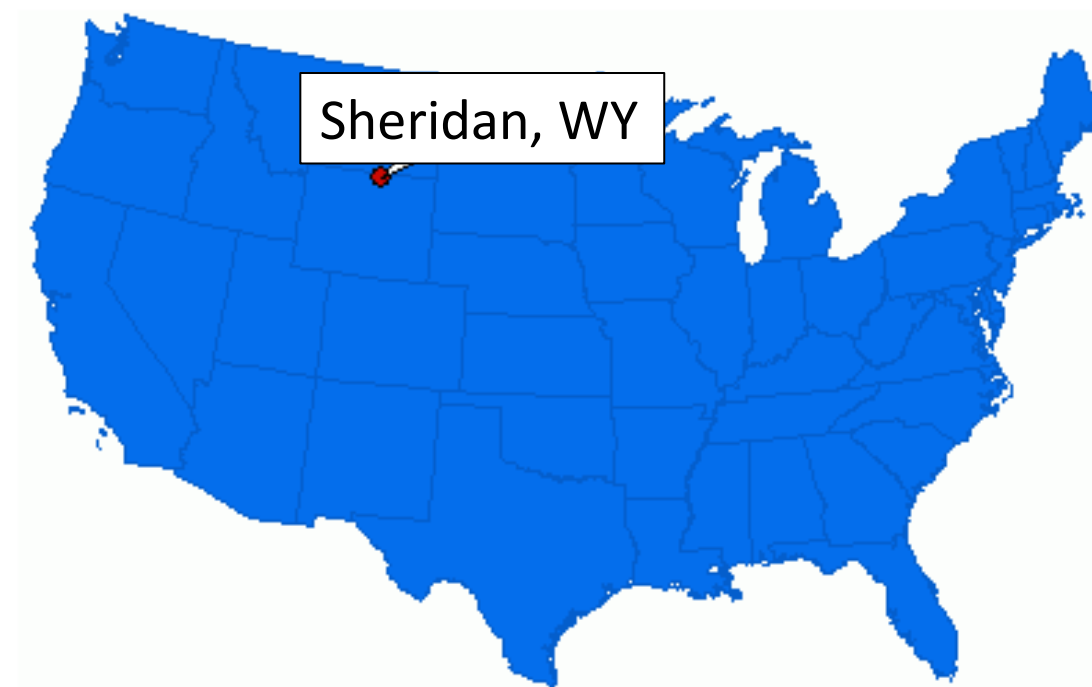
Hypothesis: Improve social health in patients with dementia by improving screening practices for dementia



Background

- Sheridan, Wyoming is a community in the Northeastern part of the state with a population of 17,477 in the 2010 census

- Considered to be a retirement destination and have an aging population



- The percentage of people over 65 years old in Sheridan is higher than the average in Wyoming and the U.S. estimated that nearly 25% of Sheridan's population will be over 65 by 2025
- Access to healthcare is limited, the ratio of the population to primary care physicians is estimated to be 1400:1

Public Health Concern

- With the aging population that Sheridan has and the advancements in medicine allowing people to live longer there is concern that Sheridan will have a large population with dementia in the near future
- A community assessment from Dementia Friendly Wyoming showed that Sheridan had three areas that could improve dementia readiness:
 1. Screening & Diagnosis with Support
 2. Lack of Dementia Education
 3. Support & Services for Dementia Caregivers

Literature Review

- Dementia is a disease that can create social isolation for patients who are battling the disease
- Studies have assessed how implementing Dementia Friendly principles in communities can improve the lives of patients with dementia and their caregivers
- Some Dementia Friendly interventions involve:
 - Development of a tool to assess buildings to ensure they have are accessible, comfortable and physically/cognitively inviting to dementia patients
 - Encouraging providers and caregivers to get to know dementia patients in their home environment where they spend most of their time to gain a better understanding of their needs

Conclusions

- Making a diagnosis of dementia can be very challenging, many patients don't have a baseline level to compare changes in cognitive function. Improving screening practices can help to create this baseline while also starting a conversation about dementia so the first time they hear about it isn't when they learn of a diagnosis
- Internal Medicine providers in Sheridan are working with Dementia Friendly Wyoming to try and incorporate dementia screening into all Medicare wellness visits to try and create this baseline and improve the community's knowledge
- Continuing to implement and improve the Dementia Friendly approach in Sheridan will be beneficial to improving the lives of patients with dementia and their caregivers through support of the community and the inclusiveness it brings

Community Asset Profile

- Dementia Friendly Wyoming is a branch of The Hub, Sheridan's Senior Center, that was founded in 2016 after receiving a federal grant to strengthen the community support of those living with dementia



- Green House Living is a nursing home in Sheridan that's mission is to create "loving homes where individuals live dignified, supported by quality care, personal choice and positive relationships"
- Dementia Friendly Wyoming, The Hub, and Green House Living are all working together as a support center to provide services for the elderly population in Sheridan including meals, transportation and access to healthcare