

Examining Racial Differences among Predictors of
Home and Community-Based Service Use and Choice and Control in Older Adults in the
Money Follows the Person Program in Connecticut

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For frail elders, choice and control is impacted by a number of contextual factors (Elder, 1998; Crocket, 2002; Hammel, et al. 2008; Hutchinson, 2011). The consideration of racial differences in predictors of choice and control provides information critical to the support and development of culturally competent long term services and supports (LTSS) for frail elders and families. The goal of this study was to better understand racial differences in predictors of choice and control in daily activities (i.e. eating when and what you want), choice in services, and choosing paid help, as well as in home and community-based service use (HCBS) among White and Black frail elders transitioning from a nursing home into a community living arrangement. The study found that there were racial differences in choice and control in daily activities, choice in services, and choosing paid help. Further, functional (homemaking, companion, and home-delivered meals) service use was related to choice and control in daily activities as well as choice in services. Racial differences also emerged in the use of functional services. Results provide direction for creating culturally relevant LTSS, and the comparison of Black and White program participants gives insight both for clinicians who work directly with frail elders and for researchers that seek to make meaningful contributions to the gerontological field.