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A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF BARRIERS TO COLORECTAL CANCER
SCREENING AMONG HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS: POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

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Overview of Presentation

- Study Background
- Problem Statement
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion / Recommendations
- Policy Implications

Study Background

- CRC is the 3rd most common cancer in the United States.
- CRC is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in U.S.
- CRC is one of few cancers that screening has shown to be beneficial in reducing mortality rates.
- CRC increased incidence after 50 and it is 30% higher in men than in women, increase incidence in non-Hispanic Blacks. It is 20% higher in blacks than in whites.

METHODOLOGY

- Study design, sample, data collection, instruments, data analysis

Study Results

- Barriers to CRC faced by most homeless individuals includes transportation and cost concerns with disgust and embarrassment being least concerning.
- Study also showed homeless individuals were concerned about their health but did not know that many preventative health screenings are available to them at no cost.
- The homeless individuals wanted more education, encouragement, and reminders to perform annual CRC screenings.
- A positive effect of the study revealed that some of the participants were eager to do a FIT test on the day of the interview.

Study Recommendations /Recommendations for Policy Changes

- Write policies that will provide transportation and cost assistance to homeless individuals to get preventive health screenings.
- Educate homeless individuals that many preventive health screenings such as CRC screenings are provided at no cost to the individual.
- Abandon the myth that homeless individuals do not care about their health but understand that basic needs (food, clothing, & shelter) take precedence.

Recommendations for Policy Changes

- Incorporate CRC screening with other screenings such as breast and prostate cancer screenings.
- Explore whether reminder calls prior to clinic visit will improve CRC screening rates among the homeless.
- Due to increased incidence of CRC in younger age groups, consider CRC screening in adults less than 50.

Homeless Departmental Proposed Policy Changes

- Geared towards health education and make it known that CRC screenings are free.
- Preventive health screenings condensed together (breast cancer, prostate cancer, cervical cancer, and colon cancer).
- Scheduled all preventive health screenings in one visit.
- Reminder calls or text for appointments should incorporate reminders to bring stool test kits to upcoming appointments.

Policy Development

Homeless Program Grants Director

- Submits proposal to Policy & Procedure (P&P) Manager
- P&P Manager places proposal on the Agenda for the Agenda Committee
- Agenda Committee (if approved)
- Board of Director's Committee (if approved)
- Board of Trustees (if approved)
- Implemented as Hospital Policy

References

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