BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer causes about 13% of all deaths. Research suggests that there are four specific cancer types which disproportionately affect the state of South Carolina: lung, breast, cervical, and prostate. There are a variety of common risk factors for all of these cancers. These may include age, family history, obesity, tobacco use, and alcohol use. Though scientists and physicians are continuously making medical strides in the treatment and diagnosis of cancer, it becomes increasingly important to promote overall cancer awareness and prevention models. A local low-income community was assessed regarding awareness and prevention of the four aforementioned cancer types in the form of a 15 question survey. The target population displayed reasonable variation in age, gender, and educational background.

GOALS

This project aims to: APPE

ASSESS knowledge of lung, breast, cervical, and prostate cancer awareness and prevention.

INFORM the population.

PROVIDE community resources.

PROMOTE cancer awareness.

ENCOURAGE individuals to practice preventive measures which may contribute to decreases in cancer incidence.

SELECTED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The following resources may be contacted for cancer related questions and concerns:

Harvest Free Medical Clinic
1670 Dry Dock Ave
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 225-7572

American Cancer Society: Reach to Recovery Program
5900 Core Road, Suite 504
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 792-0700

Franklin C. Fetter Family Health Center
51 Nasuau Street
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 722-4112

Holmes Cancer Center - MUSC
86 Jonathan Lucas Street
Charleston, SC 29425
(843) 722-4112

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The following True/False Survey was Used to Assess Knowledge:

1. The mammogram is still the best way to detect breast cancer.
2. Women should discuss personal risk factors with their doctor to determine when and how often they should receive mammograms.
3. White women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer but African-American women are more likely to die from breast cancer.
4. The HPV vaccine protects women against all forms of HPV and completely prevents cervical cancer.
5. The best way to screen for cervical cancer is to have an annual Pap smear.
6. Tobacco smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer.
7. Lung cancer incidence and mortality is higher in men than in women.
8. There are no treatments for lung cancer once it is developed.
9. Air pollution has a weak association in the development of lung cancer.
10. Prostate cancer is dramatically higher in African-American males than in White males.
11. Men with a close blood relative with prostate cancer have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer themselves.
12. Obese men are more likely to develop prostate cancer than men of a healthy weight.
13. Individuals with high dietary intake of fruits and vegetables have a lower risk of developing cancer.
14. Although the knowledge of certain cancers was higher than others, everyone stands to benefit from further education in early detection and prevention of all cancer groups.
15. Additional studies are needed to further evaluate the discrepancies in knowledge for different demographics groups including age, race, gender & socioeconomics.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Although the knowledge of certain cancers was higher than others, everyone stands to benefit from further education in early detection and prevention of all cancer groups.
- This is reflected by our community’s lack of awareness of cervical cancer, as it was the lowest of any of our four cancer groups.
- Blood is used to screen for prostate cancer; women are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than men are.
- Although the knowledge of certain cancers was higher than others, everyone stands to benefit from further education in early detection and prevention of all cancer groups.

RESULTS: COMMUNITY SURVEY

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS