Multi-level interventions to improve colorectal cancer screening in an urban Native American community: A pilot randomized clinical trial

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Background

- Native Americans have the highest rates of CRC incidence and mortality in the US
- Lowest rates of screening
- FQHCs creening rates: 45%
- Pandemic disruption
- Poor recovery post pandemic

Colorectal cancer statistics, 2023



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Colorectal Cancer Screening in Minnesota

Minnesota Colorectal Cancer Screening: 73% up to date (BRFSS: ranked 9th in nation)



Screening by Race/Ethnicity

Source: BRFSS Prevalence Data, 2018

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Specific Aims

- To implement a strategy of mailed invitation and FIT followed by navigation vs. standard-care CRC screening at the Native American Community clinic for the following outcomes:
- Rates of CRC screening

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- Rates of colonoscopy completion for those with abnormal FIT
- Qualitative interviews of patients and providers about the program





- Urban FQHC
- 80% AI, 8% Black
- 75% <200% federal poverty line

Framework



Methods program:

Randomized 100 to usual care vs. Outreach



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Results:	Characteristic	Overall, N = 200	Outreach, N = 100	Usual Care, N = 100
NYU Grossman School of Mer	Age (Years)	60 (8)	60 (8)	60 (9)
	Sex			
	Female	100 (50%)	50 (50%)	50 (50%)
	Male	100 (50%)	50 (50%)	50 (50%)
	Race			
	Asian	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Black	16 (8.3%)	9 (9.5%)	7 (7.1%)
	Native American	124 (64%)	60 (63%)	64 (65%)
	Native American and Black	6 (3.1%)	3 (3.2%)	3 (3.1%)
	Native American and White	13 (6.7%)	7 (7.4%)	6 (6.1%)
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	3 (3.1%)
	White	31 (16%)	16 (17%)	15 (15%)
	Unknown	7	5	2
	Ethnicity			
	Hispanic	17 (11%)	10 (14%)	7 (8.9%)
	Non-Hispanic	132 (89%)	60 (86%)	72 (91%)
	Unknown	51	30	21
	BMI (kg/m ²)	31 (9)	32 (7)	31 (10)
	Unknown	24	14	10
	Smoking status			
	Never	71 (53%)	37 (51%)	34 (56%)
	Current - Some Days	43 (32%)	26 (36%)	17 (28%)
	Current - Everyday	20 (15%)	10 (14%)	10 (16%)
	Unknown	66	27	39

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Results:	Outcomes	Overall, N = 200	Outreach, N = 100	Usual Care, N = 100
	Completed FIT/study		12 (12%)	1 (1%)
	Reported other CRC screening		8 (8%)	2 (2%)
	Requested colonoscopy		1 (1%)	
	Non-responder		68 (68%)	
	Opted out		6 (6%)	
	Lost to follow-up		4 (4%)	
	Deceased		1 (1%)	
	No CRC screening per medical records		79 (79%)	97 (97%)

Screening increased by 16.8 percentage points (95% CI: 7.4, 26.3)



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Qualitative Interviews

• Patients:

- No conversation about CRC screening in their communities
- Barriers described were economic and social
- No smartphone/access to technology, transportation
- Inability to pay for the tests or preparatory medications
- No time off from job or household-related responsibilities
- Distrust of the medical system based on personal or historical community experiences

• Providers:

- Lack of time to discuss risk factors and CRC options with patients
- Patient reluctance
- Improvements:
- Culturally appropriate messaging
- Delivered by trusted community member
- CHW from community
- Education at social events



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Limitations:

Study are its small size and limited generalizability to other underserved racial and ethnic minorities

Conclusions:

The study demonstrates the need for testing and developing population specific programs, within the evidence-based framework of multi-level interventions with stakeholder input

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