Exploring Skin Cancer Awareness & Prevention

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Objectives

• Define melanoma and its impact on both Arizona and Yuma, AZ Residents
• Overview the Yuma Community Assessment completed by project members in Aug. 2019
• Identify theoretical framework chosen for this project
• Discuss methods and instruments chosen
• Identify limitations
• Describe potential impacts of project
Background & Significance

- Melanoma is a cancer that occurs most often in the skin, although it can occur in any body site that has melanocytes (5% of melanoma cases in Arizona do not occur in the skin).

- **Epidemiology**
  - According to the CDC (2019), in Arizona, age adjusted rate of new Melanomas of the skin cases was 29.7 per 100,000 people.
  - 2,513 Melanomas of the skin cases were reported.
Four Stages of Melanoma

**Stage 0**
Melanoma confined to epidermal region of skin

**Stage I**
Localized disease, only in skin and very thin

**Stage II**
Localized disease, thicker than Stage I

**Stage III**
Spread to lymph nodes

**Stage IV**
Spread to other organs

(AiM at Melanoma Foundation, 2020)
Community Assessment

❖ Yuma County, Arizona

Health disparities are ongoing problems and are directly related to the historical and current unequal distribution of social, political, economic, and environmental resources.

❖ Yuma residents are at an increased risk of complications to skin cancer because of social factors (i.e. low-resources) in the region that reduce access to health prevention, especially among a large agricultural outdoor workforce with limited dermatology specialists to provide medical services and screening for melanoma.
Theoretical Framework

❖ This project will focus on increasing skin cancer awareness and knowledge as the first step toward creating the necessary behavior changes required for reduced skin cancer prevalence in the community.

❖ Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 1986)
  - Personal, environmental, & behavioral factors.
Methods

Setting:
A community college in the southwestern United States

Population:
College students above the age of 18 attending classes at the community college

Project Design:
Cross-Sectional Survey to assess sun-safety knowledge amongst college students

Data Analysis:
Pearson Chi-Square

Planning:
Survey would be distributed by site leaders (Instructors of courses offered at the community college).Authors suggested offering extra credit for

Budget:
$200 for consultation of AHEC director during project.
Instruments

Demographic Survey
- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Melanoma History

Melanoma Knowledge Survey
- The Melanoma Knowledge Survey will be used to measure participants’ knowledge about skin cancer and sun safety.

(AARP, 2020)
Discussion

Limitations:
Inability for project team to be on campus due to the pandemic. No baseline data on skin cancer exposure of students (either self or family).

Conclusion
Evaluation of skin cancer knowledge in the young adult population is needed, as prevention of UV skin damage is the best prevention for skin cancer.

Predicted Impact:
Assessment of skin cancer knowledge in the student population at this college will be able to guide future projects to address the knowledge deficit, if applicable.
Thank you!!
References


