

Minority Men: Under the Healthcare Radar

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Men's Health: A Brewing Crisis

- 5.5 years less life expectancy
- Higher rates of all leading causes of death
 - Heavier drinkers
 - Smoke more
 - More likely to be overweight
 - Delay seeking healthcare
 - Lack of accessible healthcare

Kellogg Foundation (2004)

When Compared to Women

Men.....

- Are less likely to report a regular healthcare provider
- Use fewer healthcare services
- Receive fewer preventive services
- Are more likely to receive treatment-oriented services
- Report less satisfactory communication with their healthcare providers
- Are less likely to receive treatment for mental illness

(Asch, Kerr, Keesey, Dams, Stodji, Malik, & McGlynn, 2006;
Courtenay 2000b; Ro, Casares, Treadwell, & Thomas, 2004)

Disparities in St. Clair County, IL

Death rates for minority men compared to same age group of all adults:

- AIDS 332% higher
- Stroke 128% higher
- Liver disease 122% higher
- Motor vehicle crashes 155% higher
- Homicide 461% higher

(CDC Wonder Mortality Data 1999-2003; IDPH, 2007)

Purpose:

Explore inter-related issues of availability, accessibility, acceptability of healthcare services, health issues for minority men

Informants:

- Administrators (5)
- Front-line service providers (9)
- Men in need of health services (9)
- Community-based Participatory Research Network (CBPRN) (10)

Example Interview Questions

- Approximately 8 open-ended questions
- Most important health issue(s) for men?
- Do men and women have similar issues?
- What health services are available?
- How can health disparities be addressed?
- Would men [you] use these services?
- Would peer group interaction or family setting be more effective for the men?

Barriers to Men's Health

- Lack of Resources

 - Financial

 - Programmatic

- Lack of Concern/ Focus

 - Systemic Indifference

 - Interpersonal Issues

- Socialization



**Lack of
Resources**

**Systematic
Indifference**

**Interpersonal
Behavioral
Issues**

Lack of Resources

- “Most public-funded health initiatives exclude men.”

All Kids is a start (S-Chip)

- “It is impossible to get services!”
- “We have nothing to offer these men, absolutely nothing!”
- “What little we offer them is categorical, so if they were disabled or had prostate cancer.”

Systemic Indifference

- “Young men’s health is not a priority.”
- “I don’t have anything to do with father’s, we don’t want them back here-HIPAA”
- “If men ask about their health, I say shut up, I’m not taking care of you!”
- “They [healthcare] places just look like women’s places—they’re all pink!”
- “Doctors don’t speak their language...they don’t respect them.”
- “There’s no customer service geared to men—no male information.”

Men's Interpersonal Issues

- A complex web of behaviors, lack of knowledge and competing priorities

"I smoke too much, 2-3 packs per day"

"I get short of breath...I took a breathing test, was supposed to go back, but I've been too busy."

"I don't do salads, maybe fruit--give me chips"

"I eat the cheap menu at McDonalds!"

“I [drink] every chance I get-maybe a 6 pack or ten beers a day”...“I like hard liquor and mixed drinks, I just hope I make it home.”

“It gets to me when people say I look pregnant, but I say I’ve got to live for myself.”

The young men gave “stock answers” -- I should stop smoking, exercise more, and eat better—no one mentioned violence, or risky sexual behaviors.

- Most providers and administrators felt health issues were the same for men and women except pregnancy

HIV/Aids, STDs, substance abuse, alcohol, and risk-taking behaviors

- However, a number of providers and administrators emphasized violent behaviors in men resulting in injury, as well as high rates of depression and suicide among young men

Socialization

- Drives indifference in health-care systems
- Impacts policy priorities
- Establishes societal norms detrimental to young men's health
- Fosters detrimental behavioral patterns in young men

Conclusions / Recommendations

- No clear consensus on how to address men's health issues
- Greater collaboration among health-care providers
- Increase available resources and access to care
- Education, education, education—for men, providers and policymakers!
- Greater emphasis on development of positive behaviors and prevention
- Address housing and employment

Next Step.....

Thank you for attending!!!