

**A Prostate Cancer Screening Program for Low-Income African-Americans**

1876

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### Collaborative Partnership

**Meharry Medical College**  
(1876)

- Academic health center
- Health care for minority and underserved communities
- Medical/Dental/Health programs
  - People of color and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Elimination of health disparities

**Mathew Walker Comprehensive Health Center**  
(1968)

- Medical/Dental/Diagnostic facility
- Serves the uninsured/underinsured
- Majority: Low-income African-Americans
- 20,000 patients in 2006
  - Over 2000 men ≥50 years

### Study Goals

Improve prostate cancer screening behavior among non-compliant low-income African-American men

**Aim**  
Improve knowledge & attitude of African-American men towards early detection of prostate cancer

**Objectives:**

- 1) Evaluate prostate cancer knowledge and attitudes
- 2) Identify prostate cancer screening barriers
- 3) Develop a culturally sensitive prostate cancer educational intervention for low-income African-Americans
  - Focus Groups
  - Community Advisory Board
- 4) Evaluate the efficacy and impact of the intervention
  - Level of knowledge
  - Attitude
  - Prostate cancer screening behavior

### Community Participation

**Three 10-Person Focus Group Discussions**

FG 1: Men ≥40 years who screened for prostate cancer including prostate cancer survivors

FG 2: Family members

4 Wives/Partners	≥30 years old
3 Females	25 – 39 years old
3 Males	25 – 39 years old

FG 3: Men ≥35 years never screened

**Community Advisory Board**

7 Lay African-Americans
5 men + 2 women
2 Community leaders
1 MWCHC physician/health provider

### Focus-Group Report

- List of prostate cancer screening barriers
  - Classified under Themes of Influence/Barriers by researchers
 

1. Individual	2. Doctor	3. CHC	4. Church
5. Family/Friends	6. Prostate Cancer Support Group		
- List of solutions to address/remove barriers
- Description of suitable advertisement pictures

**CAB Report**

- Recommended an Education Intervention
  - Format: Brochure & Discussion session
  - Duration: 15 – 20 minutes
- Selected Pictures & Quotes for brochure and posters
- Suggested language and reading level of Messages

### STUDY PROTOCOL

- Recruit 520 men: Posters, Flyers, Word of mouth
- Informed Consent
- Pre-Intervention Survey: 5-page survey booklet
 

Section 1:	Demography, Screening History/Intent
Section 2:	Prostate Cancer Knowledge & Screening Barriers
Section 3:	Decisional Conflict & Religion
- Education Intervention
- Post-Intervention Survey: 2-page survey
 

Section 1:	Identity, Screening Action
Section 2:	Prostate cancer Knowledge
Section 3:	Decisional Conflict

### Education Intervention

- By Community navigator in private
- Read culturally appropriate brochure with the participant
- Answer questions & address concerns raised by participant
- Open dialogue about myths surrounding prostate cancer, sexuality, and DRE
- Carefully describe research procedure
  - Process for redeeming the screening coupon
  - Process for the 3-month study follow-up visit
  - Follow-through of abnormal screening results

### Results

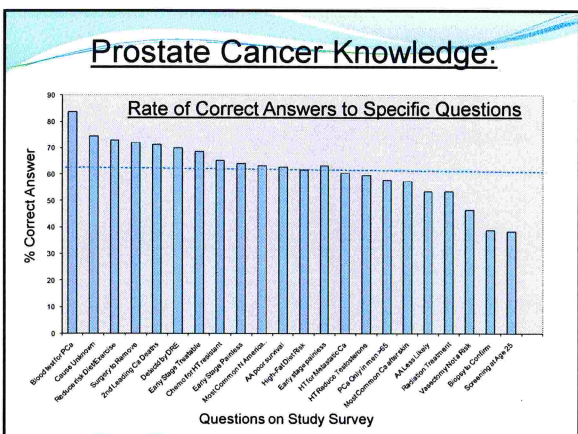
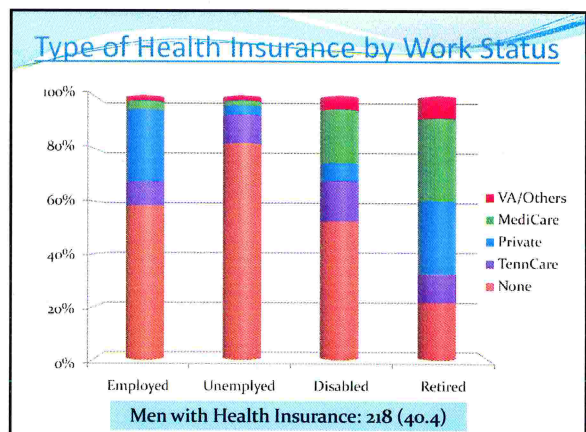
**539**  
Enrolled  
Completed Pre-Intervention Survey

**392**  
(72.7%)  
Follow-up  
Completed Post-Intervention Survey

**Program staff**  
3 Community Navigators  
1 Meharry Medical Student  
6 Fisk University Summer Interns

### Health Insurance Coverage

- 321 (59.6) do not have health insurance
- Cost constraint for doctor visits:
  - Men with health insurance: 25 (11.5)
  - Men without health insurance: 182 (56.9)
- **Type of health insurance**
  - Private insurance 93 (17.3)
  - TennCare 56 (10.4)
  - Medicare 49 (9.1)
  - Others 17 (3.2)
  - Not stated 3 (0.6)



### PSA Screening by Demographics: Pre- & Post-Intervention

Demographics	PSA Screening: N (Rate)	
	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention
<b>Family History</b>		
Yes	28 (22.0)	59 (62.1)
No	89 (22.8)	179 (62.2)
Don't know	4 (19.0)	4 (55.6)
<b>Health Insurance</b>	**	
Yes	72 (33.0)	103 (66.5)
No	49 (15.3)	140 (59.1)
<b>Age</b>	**	
42 – 49	26 (14.3)	88 (61.1)
50 – 64	59 (27.4)	84 (57.5)
≥65	36 (25.4)	71 (69.6)
<b>Marital Status</b>	*	
Married	51 (29.5)	84 (65.6)
Divorced/Separated	43 (22.2)	86 (61.9)
Widowed	9 (26.5)	18 (69.2)
Single	17 (13.3)	51 (55.4)

\* p < 0.01    \*\* p < 0.001



**PSA Screening by Demographics: Pre- & Post-Intervention**

Demographics	PSA Screening: N (Rate)	
	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention
Education	**	**
Less than High School	55 (30.2)	53 (47.7)
High School	36 (18.7)	89 (60.1)
Some College/College	30 (18.9)	96 (75.0)
Work Status	**	*
Employed	42 (19.4)	119 (69.6)
Unemployed	28 (16.7)	55 (47.4)
Disabled	15 (25.4)	23 (63.9)
Retired	34 (40.0)	40 (65.6)
Income	**	**
<\$25,000	88 (25.8)	125 (53.4)
\$25-\$49,999	28 (17.6)	94 (74.6)
≥\$50,000	3 (10.7)	17 (70.8)
Not Stated	2 (18.2)	7 (87.5)

\* p<0.01    \*\* p<0.001

**PSA Screening by Knowledge: Pre- & Post-Intervention**

PCA Knowledge	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention
Epidemiology		**
Poor	18 (16.7)	35 (59.3)
Good	68 (23.0)	58 (46.4)
Excellent	35 (25.9)	150 (72.1)
Screening		**
Poor	19 (22.4)	25 (40.3)
Good	68 (23.6)	82 (55.8)
Excellent	34 (20.5)	136 (74.3)
Treatment		**
Poor	15 (23.1)	15 (40.5)
Good	45 (19.1)	70 (49.3)
Excellent	61 (25.6)	158 (74.2)
Risk	*	**
Poor	24 (14.0)	46 (44.7)
Good	51 (25.5)	92 (65.2)
Excellent	46 (27.4)	105 (70.9)

\* p<0.01    \*\* p<0.001

**Multivariate Associations of PSA Screening among Study Participants: Adjusted<sup>‡</sup> OR (95% CI) Estimates**

Characteristics	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention
No Health Insurance	0.39 (0.24 - 0.64)***	0.72 (0.43 - 1.20)
Older Age	1.82 (0.93 - 3.55)	0.87 (0.45 - 1.68)
High School Education <sup>a</sup>	0.56 (0.28 - 1.11)	1.21 (0.58 - 2.53)
Unemployment	1.69 (0.90 - 3.20)	1.41 (0.76 - 2.61)
Income <sup>a</sup>	0.25 (0.06 - 0.96)*	0.58 (0.19 - 1.79)
Married	2.26 (1.22 - 4.22)**	1.14 (0.66 - 1.99)
Good PCa Knowledge <sup>a,f</sup>	2.28 (1.13 - 4.61)*	5.71 (2.74 - 11.9)***

Pre-OR<sub>PreInt</sub>    <sup>a</sup><0.05    <sup>b</sup><0.01    <sup>c</sup><0.001    OR:    \*p<0.05    \*\*p<0.01    \*\*\*p<0.001  
Post-OR<sub>PostInt</sub>    <sup>d</sup><0.05    <sup>e</sup><0.01    <sup>f</sup><0.001

<sup>a</sup>Health Insurance, Age, Education, Employment, Income, Marital Status, PCa Knowledge

- Summary** 1
- 539 men, mean age 56 years, received prostate cancer education intervention. 392 returned for follow-up.
  - Knowledge about prostate cancer at baseline
    - Excellent 22%, Good 52%, Poor 26%.
    - Most knowledgeable about prostate cancer treatment. Least knowledgeable about risk
  - Major perceived barriers to screening
    - Lack of health insurance 41%
    - Concern about DRE 32%
    - Fear of cancer diagnosis 30%

- Summary** 2
- Education intervention was effect
    - Knowledge score increased significantly: 13.3 to 15.0
    - PSA screening increased 3-fold: 22.3% to 62.0%
  - Most important predictor of PSA screening post-intervention was prostate cancer knowledge.
    - Health insurance, age, marital status, income, and prostate cancer knowledge were all significant predictors of PSA screening pre-intervention.
  - Impact on screening rate was highest
    - Annual income ≥\$50,000 (6-fold)
    - College education, No health insurance (4-fold)
    - Young, Single (4-fold)
  - Impact on screening rate was lowest
    - Men with less than high school (1.6 fold)
    - Lowest post-intervention PSA screening rate 47.7%

- Lessons Learned**
- CBPR using focus groups & community advisory board is an appropriate approach for developing an effective prostate cancer education intervention for this population.
- More than one education intervention session might be necessary to reduce confusion and reinforce accurate perception of prostate cancer screening risks and benefits.
- Future research plans:
- Modify study protocol
  - Ascertain knowledge by mixed methods; Not only T/F response
  - Review survey answers at the end of education intervention
  - Cash incentive only for completing surveys & transportation cost
  - Propose larger study to recruit at least 1,000 men
  - PSA & DRE offered within annual physical visit
  - 3 years follow-up to evaluate sustained intervention effect

## Policy Implications

### Providing health insurance for low-income families will overcome the major barrier to PCa screening.

1. Eligibility criteria for Medicaid/TennCare should be revised to include persons in households below 400% poverty.
2. Federal funds for annual physicals that include prostate cancer screening by PSA & DRE.
  - Viable strategy to improve access to preventive health services.
3. Federal funds for cost of resolving abnormal screening results for those without health insurance.
  - Will ensure continuity of care.
4. Health insurance companies should cover PSA & DRE as part of routine physicals for men starting at age 40.
  - Will improve compliance by physicians
  - Increase familiarity with the tests; minimize patient apprehension.

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