

The Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Colorectal Cancer Screening in Transgender Individuals

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BACKGROUND

- Colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates are lower in transgender (TGD) individuals compared to cis-gender individuals
- TGD individuals experience discrimination such as unemployment, lack of education, access to healthcare and housing insecurity
- Aim of the study was to identify the impact of barriers related to social determinants of health (SDH), as identified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), on CRC screening in TGD individuals

METHODS

- Retrospective chart analysis was performed using electronic medical records of TGD individuals >45 years of age
- Patients with concerns related to SDH were included
- Patients' CRC screening rates were recorded
- Specific barriers were categorized into 5 main domains: Economic stability, Access to quality education, Access to quality healthcare, Housing and neighbourhoods, Social and community related concerns

RESULTS

| | Mean or N (%) | | N(%) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Age (mean) | 55.2 years | CRC Screening Offered | 143 (46.6%) |
| Sex recorded on birth certificate | | CRC Screening completed | 104 (72.2%) |
| Male | 268 (87.3%) | Barriers related to SDH | |
| Female | 39 (12.7%) | Economic Stability | 105 (32.4%) |
| Ethnicity | | Education Access and Quality | 22 (7.1%) |
| Hispanic | 83 (27.0%) | Healthcare Access and Quality | 56 (18.2%) |
| Non- Hispanic | 136 (44.3%) | Neighborhood and Built Environment | 43 (14%) |
| Unknown | 88 (28.7%) | Social and Community Context | 182 (59.3%) |
| Gender Identity | | | |
| Male | 35 (11.4%) | | |
| Female | 264 (86.0%) | | |
| Gender non conforming | 2 (0.7%) | | |
| Unknown | 2 (0.7%) | | |

- We identified 1046 TGD individuals above 45 years of age. CRC screening was offered to 143 individuals (13.6%)
- Of those offered screening, 104/143 (72%) completed screening
- Two or more barriers related to SDH were identified in 78 people. Social and community related concerns was the most common barrier (182 people, 59.3%), followed by economic instability (105 people, 32.4%)
- Lack of access to healthcare (18.2%), housing insecurity (7.1%) and deficiency in access to quality education (7.1%) were other factors
- The presence of at least one barrier related to SDH negatively impacted CRC screening (p<0.001)

CONCLUSIONS

- 30% of individuals in our study had at least one barrier related to SDH which were negatively associated with CRC screening
- There is a need to develop comprehensive initiatives aimed at mitigating obstacles to CRC screening
- Future studies should focus on implementing assessment tools for early identification of these barriers

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