An Inter-Professional Partnership Model for Care Delivery to Assess Obesity and Related Comorbidities among Hispanic Female Farm Workers & Others

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INTRODUCTION

Hispanics comprise 47% of the immigrants in the United States. The Hispanic population is expected to reach 100 million by 2050. Hispanics are 1.4 times more likely to be obese and 1.9 times more likely to develop diabetes compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts. Immigrant Hispanics typically do not have insurance coverage, and as a group, experience much difficulty accessing preventive health care services resulting in health disparities for this population.

Therefore, advance practice nurse (APRN) faculty developed and led an Interdisciplinary Health Team to provide comprehensive health care assessments and interventions to Hispanic farm workers employed by a large local nursery in South Carolina.

PURPOSE: To develop and implement an interdisciplinary business partnership to assess the health needs/risks of obesity and other co-morbidity among Hispanic female farm-workers and other commercial horticulture laborers.

METHODS

Costa Layman Nursery:

- 3-farm wholesale plant nursery located in Trenton, SC
- Employs more than 400 mostly Hispanic full-time and seasonal workers

For 8 years, interdisciplinary health partnership teams from Georgia Regents University conducted an annual work-site health fair at the Costa Layman Nursery.

During these health fairs, the partnership teams conducted/developed:

- Annual Worksite Health Screenings
- A Bilingual Assessment Tool
- Customized Bilingual Streaming Video Education Tapes

Since 2009, the health fair concept expanded to include a “Women’s Clinic” for the female farm workers at the Georgia Regents Interdisciplinary Healthcare Clinic.

Interdisciplinary Partnership Teams performed:

- Breast and Pelvic Exams
- Standard & Customized Bilingual Health Histories
- Bilingual Comprehensive Health Screening Assessments for obesity and cardiometabolic risks
- Customized Electronic Medical Record
- Serum Glucose, Vitamin D, & STI Laboratory Testing

RESULTS

Women’s Clinic:

83 female farm-workers assessed for obesity and cardio-metabolic co-morbidity.

Services & Outcomes:

- Group Education
- Individualized Counseling
- Demonstration Classes
- “Provider Relationships” Development
- Referral-based Care established
- Multiple community partnerships emerged to financially support the biannual programs

CONCLUSION

Worksite and clinic-based health care is an effective means to provide quality, affordable, routine physical examinations and risk assessments for obesity and related co-morbid conditions among Hispanic females and other commercial farm-workers

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Figure 1. Photos from past Costa Layman’s Health Fair (left) and Women’s Clinic (right).

Figure 2. The female farm worker participation increased each year at the annual Costa Layman’s Women’s Clinic.