Assessment and Enhancement of Knowledge of Neglected Infections of Poverty Among Medical Providers that Serve the Latino Immigrant Population in Metropolitan Atlanta

Israel Habtamu¹, Michael McHenry², Tiffany Pearson¹, Ashley Tippins³

¹Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing; ²Department of , Emory University College of Arts and Sciences
³Rollins School of Public Health, Hubert Department of Global Health

Project Background

- Neglected infections of poverty include chronic and often debilitating bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections that disproportionately affect the disenfranchised poor and minority groups such as Latino immigrants. These infections are often overlooked in terms of diagnosis and treatment.
- Research on medical providers’ knowledge of neglected infections of poverty is limited, but suggests a substantial educational gap among medical providers regarding these diseases.
- Further research is needed to delineate the gaps in physician knowledge of neglected infections of poverty, particularly in the context of diagnosing and treating the Latino immigrant community.
- A means of addressing gaps in knowledge of these diseases among medical providers must be developed and evaluated.

Project Goals

To understand and improve the ability of medical providers in Atlanta who serve the Latino community to recognize and treat neglected infections of poverty that disproportionately affect Latino immigrants.

Specific Aims

1. Quantify knowledge levels of neglected infections of poverty among medical providers who serve Latino immigrants in Atlanta.
2. Develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a Continuing Education (CE) module to address the gaps in provider knowledge concerning the diagnosis and treatment of neglected infections of poverty in the Latino immigrant community of Atlanta.

Project Partners and Acknowledgements

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- Dr. Juan Leon, Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health
- Grady Memorial International Clinic
- Emory Hospital Midtown
- Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
- Emory School of Medicine

Aim 1: Medical Provider Survey

- Recruited 51 medical providers from metropolitan Atlanta hospitals and clinics
- Survey instrument consisted of demographic section and three sections assessing current knowledge level of Chagas disease, cysticercosis and leishmaniasis
- Surveys administered in person and online

Results and Future Directions

- Descriptive statistical analysis and preliminary analysis of knowledge levels examined
- Continuing recruitment of medical providers to improve statistical power of study

Aim 2: Continuing Education Module

- Development of an online continuing education module to improve medical providers’ knowledge of Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, and cysticercosis
- Pre-test, post-test, and interactive quizzes included to evaluate learner’s progress
- Module assesses the change in the providers’ knowledge of the diseases after completion
- Results of evaluations sent to a secure server for data analysis

Results and Future Directions

- Successfully developed module content to submit to the CDC for CE accreditation
- Covers epidemiology and clinical analysis of all three diseases and includes a cultural competency section
- Evaluation section in final development stages

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