Hypertension Education and Screening in African American Churches

Abstract Information

Presentation Preference: SNRS Poster Presentation

Abstract Categories:
- Interest Group: Community/Public Health
- Thematic Areas: Family Health

Introduction:
Hypertension is a major health problem in the United States, particularly among African Americans (AA). Strategies to prevent the detrimental effects of uncontrolled hypertension - renal failure, heart failure, and stroke - are needed. Therefore, it is imperative that individuals and communities receive information about the potential consequences of uncontrolled hypertension. Research has shown that church-based health promotion has a positive impact upon AA health. The church has long been a trusted and influential establishment in the AA community. Thus, this study seeks to identify health promotion activities and health promotion needs of AA churches related to hypertension.

Method(s):
A cross-sectional survey will be used to collect information about hypertension education and screening activities and the health education needs in AA churches located in a southeastern urban setting. A sample of 50 churches in or within a 35-mile radius of Atlanta, Georgia will be surveyed. Churches are identified through word of mouth, internet search and church directories. The churches selected will have a congregation that is predominately African American/Black; however, religious affiliation, congregation size and socioeconomic status will vary. Three master's prepared nurses, one with training in parish nursing,
are developing the survey, which will be reviewed by researchers with measurement expertise. Questions will include church characteristics, existence of an active health ministry, frequency of blood pressure screenings and educational offerings on hypertension. The survey will also include a health education needs assessment checklist. Surveys will be administered via telephone interview with the church pastor, secretary, or director of the church's health ministry.

Results:

Data collection is currently in progress.

Discussion:

This survey will provide information about AA churches' participation in health promotion activities related to hypertension. It will also identify areas of opportunity to improve ongoing awareness, education and screening to more effectively reduce the consequences of undiagnosed/uncontrolled hypertension.

Research Completed: Yes

Abstract History: NA

Financial Disclosure:

Have a financial arrangement or affiliation with commercial companies whose products may be mentioned in this material? Yes

Grants/Research Support: Y

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Consultant:

Stock/Shareholder:

Speaker's Bureau:

Other Financial or Material Support:

FDA Disclosure:

Cleared: Yes

Non-Exclusive License:

Accepted Terms: Yes

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