

8-5-2016

Health Policy & Management News

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/health-policy-news-online>



Part of the [Health Services Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Health Policy & Management News" (2016). *Health Policy & Management Department News (Through 6/28)*. 78.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/health-policy-news-online/78>

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Health Policy and Community Health Department Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Health Policy & Management Department News (Through 6/28) by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern Examines Social Network Characteristics

August 5, 2016

Peru has high cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates compared to other Andean countries. Therefore, partnerships between governmental and international organizations have targeted rural areas of Peru to receive cervical cancer screening via outreach campaigns. Previous studies have found a relationship between a person's social networks and cancer screening behaviors. Screening outreach campaigns conducted by the nonprofit organization CerviCusco created an opportunity for a social network study to examine cervical cancer screening history and social network characteristics in a rural indigenous community that participated in these campaigns in 2012 and 2013. The aim of this study was to explore social network characteristics in this community related to receipt of cervical cancer screening following the campaigns.

An egocentric social network questionnaire was used to collect cross-sectional network data on community participants. Each survey participant (ego) was asked to name six other women they knew (alters) and identify the nature of their relationship or tie (family, friend, neighbor, other), residential closeness (within 5 km), length of time known, frequency of communication, topics of conversation, and whether they lent money to the person, provided childcare or helped with transportation. In addition, each participant was asked to report the nature of the relationship between all alters identified (e.g., friend, family, or neighbor). Bivariate and multivariate analyses were used to explore the relationship between Pap test receipt at the CerviCusco outreach screening campaigns and social network characteristics.

According to this exploratory study, female neighbors more than family members may have provided an important source of social support for healthcare related decisions related to receipt of a Pap test. Future studies should collect longitudinal social network data on participants to measure the network effects of screening interventions in rural indigenous communities in Latin American countries experiencing the highest burden of cervical cancer.

[“Social network characteristics and cervical cancer screening among Quechua women in Andean Peru,”](#) was published in BMC Public Health.

Dr. Juan Luque, associate professor at the Department of Public Health Sciences and Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston was the lead author and Dr. Samuel Opoku, assistant professor of health policy and management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was one of the co-authors.

Share:    

Posted in [faculty-highlights](#), [Health Policy & Mgmt](#), [JPHCOPH](#), [JPHCOPH](#)