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Georgia Southern University

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A collaborative study led by Dr. Levi Ross, an assistant professor of community health behavior and education at the Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University describes the use of community-based participatory research (CBPR) to extend prostate cancer education, counseling and screening to inner-city men. CBPR is becoming one of the dominant approaches for bringing evidence- and consensus-based cancer prevention and control methods to medically underserved communities. There are many examples of how CBPR has been useful for generating culturally specific solutions for different health issues that affect African-Americans. However, few examples exist in the literature on how the CBPR approach can be applied to address prostate cancer. This paper describes a collaborative process for linking inner-city, African-American men to free prostate cancer education, physician counseling, and screening opportunities (prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing and digital rectal examination (DRE)). The site of this community-based participatory project was the city of Buffalo, located in Erie County, New York. The collaborative, community-academic process that is described includes the following: (1) planning and conducting a community needs assessment to contextualize local prostate cancer issues, (2) organizing town and gown event planning, and (3) manipulating aspects of the built environment to build an infrastructure within the community to address disparities in screening opportunities. This paper concludes with a description of lessons learned that can help with the development and implementation of similar activities in other communities.
An editorial by Dr. Gulzar Shah, Associate Dean for Research, discusses the topic: answering the call to integrate health care and public health and proposes that situation is more favorable for integration of the two traditionally siloed fields now than ever before. The editorial attempts to provide contextual background to the study by Carlton and Erwin in the March 2015 issue of *Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research*, integration of health care and public health (executives). The editorial provides a critical assessment of strategies for integration, identified by Carlton and Edwin study. The editorial concludes that only a large-scale policy creating the interdependence of health care and public health, requiring cooperation from both sides through well-defined incentives for compliance, and disincentives for lack of compliance, will serve as a glue to bring about the desired level of integration. Those policies must attempt to shift the healthcare focus from profitability and industrial complex approach, conventionally the defining characteristics of healthcare, to prevention and population health, customarily the turf for public health.
Georgia Southern Assistant Professor Implements a Community Empowerment Center

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A collaborative study including Dr. Stacy Smallwood, assistant professor of community health at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University, described the process of implementing a community empowerment center among residents of a low-resource neighborhood. The Community Empowerment Center used a community-engaged approach to build capacity among residents to develop and implement interventions focused on creating a healthier environment. The Center partnered with residents living in a public housing community and adjacent low-income neighborhood and provided support through a mini-grant program. A six-session training program guided community members in mini grant development; 25 individuals attended at least one session. Six grant proposals were submitted; three were awarded $12,000 each for intervention implementation. Findings offer a model for engaging residents from low-resource settings in intervention development, implementation, and sustainability for community health promotion.
Georgia Southern Investigates Performance of Stratified Bivariate Ranked Set Sampling

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A collaborative study led by Dr. Daniel Linder, assistant professor of biostatistics at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University investigates the relative performance of stratified bivariate ranked set sampling (SBVRSS), with respect to stratified simple random sampling (SSRS) for estimating the population mean with regression methods. The mean and variance of the proposed estimators are derived with the mean being shown to be unbiased. We perform a simulation study to compare the relative efficiency of SBVRSS to SSRS under various data-generating scenarios. We also compare the two sampling schemes on a real data set from trauma victims in a hospital setting. The results of our simulation study and the real data illustration indicate that using SBVRSS for regression estimation provides more efficiency than SSRS in most cases.