Dominican Republic Batey Health Initiative

Population Health Clerkship 2019
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Demographics

- Sugarcane workers of Haitian descent/extraction and their families, living on sugar cane plantations
- Men, women, and children with a variety of health concerns.
- Citizens or noncitizens who do not have access to public health care facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(20.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-75</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>(54.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>(23.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>(50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>(50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(14.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creole</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>(71.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(1.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics Cont.

Most common health issues:
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Fever and upper respiratory infection
- Stomach pain (most common complaint)
- Fungal skin infections and wounds

Issues affecting access:
Cost of transportation, lack of health insurance, lack of proper Dominican Republic documentation, resource deficit in the public health system.
Interprofessional Teams

Health Promoter
Interpreter
Dominican Doctor(s)
Medical Student(s)
Nursing Student(s)
UMass Faculty Preceptor
Interprofessional Teams
Fundación Enciende Una Luz (Light A Candle Mission, LAC) is a nonprofit organization that provides health education initiatives such as a hypertension clinic program to Bateys 18 & 22

Population: Underserved communities in Southeastern Dominican Republic

- Health Education
- Health Promotion
- Empowerment Opportunities

Success: Medication to Bateys, Health Education

Challenges: Every 3 Months, Not at every Batey, Limited HTN Medication
Health Advocacy

Health Promoters document blood pressure, point person for acute care, and informs community of LAC

Population: Batey 18 and 22

Success: Local support, documentation of community needs, and dependable source of health information

Challenges: Addressing limited medications and pressure from the community, Understaffed, Patient Relocation
Health Advocacy

Good Samaritan Hospital was founded on November 9, 1997 by the Missionary Baptist Church of Haiti.

Location: La Romana, Dominican Republic

- Sponsors the Health Promoters
- Ground transport
- Interpreters and staff to support DR BHI activities on the bateys

Success: Maintaining Health Promoter program and Reduced Co-Pay Evenings

Challenges: Following up with high-risk patients
Activities performed

- Collaborated with local partners in hypertension management
- Engaged with community health “promoters”
- Learned from local professionals about delivering culturally appropriate care
- Reflected on global health ethics
Activities performed

- The DRBHI is moving toward a sustainable model of population-based global health

- Our trip contributed to:
  
  o Developing relationships with local stakeholders
  
  o Working towards improved follow-up care for Batey residents
## Outcomes

| Means of Systolic and Diastolic BP on Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                 | Mean (SD)       | Mean (SD)       | p-value         |
|                                 | LAC             | No LAC          |                 |
| Systolic BP                    | 147.54 (24.65)  | 146.74 (20.09)  | 0.891           |
| Diastolic BP                   | 83.31 (13.72)   | 84.89 (12.09)   | 0.648           |
Outcomes

How Patients Get Their Medication on Bateys with LAC vs. Without LAC

- Percentage of Patients Receiving BP Medication

Methods of Obtaining Medication:
- Company Truck
- LAC
- Dominican Doctor
- Other
- Multiple Ways

Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC

How the Promotoras Help Patients with HTN on Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC

- Percentage of Patients

What the HP does:
- BP
- Medication
- BP and Medications
- Other

Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC
Identifying the Community Needs through:

- Local Promotoras
- Light a Candle
- Door to door patient assessments
- Local doctors
Community Needs being addressed

- Hypertension
- Health literacy
- Medication management
- Community Involvement- local health promoters
- Light a Candle Program
Challenges

- Residents lives are governed by The Central Romana Sugar Mill
- Demographically isolated
- Immigration Status
- Health insurance
- Transitional Community
Acknowledgements

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