Background

- **Bateyes**: communities built in sugar plantations to house migrant Haitian-Dominican sugarcane workers.
- Suffer from extreme poverty; lack of access to clean water, electricity, educational resources & health services.
- **El Buen Samaritano Hospital’s Community Health Worker program** aims to create a link between the bateyes in La Romana and the local health care system.
- Health promoters facilitate outreach, distribute medicine, and provide medical help – many areas to improve program.
- **Population Health Clerkship team**: 2 medical students, 2 nursing students, 3 physicians, and 1 nurse practitioner.

**Purpose/Objectives**
- Improve understanding of the demographic and health concerns of people living in the Bateys (specifically hypertension).
- Explore perceptions of health promoters to facilitate future trainings.

**Methods**
- 4 bateyes: 18, 22, Tocones, Higo Claro.
- Surveyed 191 adults: health status, access to care, perceptions of health promoter.
- Measured blood pressure of 254 adults.
- Referred cases of HTN to health promoter.

**Results**

**Blood Pressure (BP) Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Prevalence (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehypertension</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension*</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*58.6% reported being previously diagnosed with HTN.

**Place of Birth**

- Haiti 70.4%
- DR 29.6%

**Gender**

- Male 51.3%
- Female 48.7%

**Language**

- Creole 63.2%
- Spanish 32.1%

**Perceptions of Promoters**

- Always useful: 2%
- Most of the time: 4%
- Sometimes useful: 11%
- Rarely useful: 3%
- Never useful: 57%

**Inability to Access Care**

- Yes: 57%
- No: 43%

**Future Directions**

- Multiple social determinants of health cause Batey residents to have unmet health needs.
- UMass will continue to partner with local resources to:
  - Develop sustainable framework for health promoter training and evaluations.
  - Provide follow up consultation for residents with chronic health needs.

**References**


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**DR Batey Community Health Initiative**

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