TITLE: Effectiveness of an Ophthalmologist Led Community-based Screening

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: All public health professionals, policy makers, program developers, evaluators, researchers, students, community members, and providers.

ABSTRACT: Background:

Timely access to eye care that provides early diagnosis and treatment could dramatically reduce the burden of vision loss in the U.S. Community vision screening programs led by paraprofessionals are challenged to accurately identify eye disease leading to over referral of already financially strained participants. We investigated a community partnership model utilizing ophthalmologist to provide free comprehensive eye exams to at risk populations in an attempt to address recognized limitations of traditional screening methods. We hypothesized that the addition of an ophthalmologist to the traditional vision screening program would decrease the proportion of non-compliance with referral recommendations.

Methods:

We conducted a telephone survey with participants 3 to 6 months after the community screening to ascertain whether providing free eye examinations delivered by ophthalmologists would lead to follow up examinations with eye care providers for individuals identified to have vision threatening eye exam findings.

Discussion:

Findings will be presented on characteristics of participants (urban and rural) that followed up with an eye care provider and those that did not seek care. We will present on identified barriers, insurance status, and time and distance to eye care provider.

OBJECTIVE(S): Discussing how well the community partnership model decreases the proportion of non-compliance with referral recommendation of at risk populations participating in free comprehensive eye screenings.

Describe identified barriers, insurance status, and time and distance to eye care providers.

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