Increasing Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Screening in African-American Urban Communities

Principal Investigator Cheryl L Holt, cholt14@umd.edu

Project Identifier Increasing CRC Screening in Urban African-American Communities via Churches - SIP 05-005

Funding Source Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Project Status Not active

Host Institution University of Alabama at Birmingham: Center for the Study of Community Health

Health Topics Cancer

Rates of colorectal cancer (CRC) disease and death are highest among African Americans and the screening rates for African Americans are lower than the national average. Early detection of CRC may enable treatment when it can be most successful. Project collaborators are developing and evaluating a multicomponent, culturally appropriate CRC intervention for use in urban African-American communities. Researchers work with a minister, a CRC expert, and church members to develop spiritually-themed materials for a screening promotion program. The intervention, for adults aged 50 years or older, consists of two educational sessions, supplementary printed materials, and a booster telephone call. The project team is evaluating the intervention in 16 churches in Birmingham, Alabama, by randomly assigning groups of 30 adults to receive either the spiritually-based intervention or a secular version that delivers the same educational content. Volunteer community health advisors recruited from the host church deliver the program. At the beginning of the program, researchers measure participants’ attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs about CRC and screening; barriers to screening; and level of self-efficacy. The measurement is repeated when the programs have been completed. Three months after the booster call, researchers contact participants to ask if they intend to get screened; three months later they will follow up to see if they have scheduled or received a test. Researchers will compare responses from the two groups to determine the effectiveness of the spiritually-themed program. This is one of two projects funded by SIP 05-05. For the other project, see the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Research setting
Place of worship

Race or ethnicity
Black or African American

Gender
No specific focus

Age group
No specific focus

CDC PRC Research Projects Database - https://nccddev.cdc.gov/PRCResearchProjects/