



Medical Education and Research Grant Outcome Report

Name: Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control

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Department: Medicine

Program: Targeted

Grant Duration: 01-01-2006 to 12-31-2009 (48 months)

Expenditures: \$532,118 (100%)

Use of Funds (Taxonomy): Type 2 translational research

Research Keywords: Cancer Control, Prevention, Palliation, Treatment, Screening

► **Description:** Though a strategy of engagement, this project sought to address cancer disparities in nine medically underserved Wisconsin communities.

In each community, researchers collected data on communities' efforts, knowledge, leadership, resources, and cultural traditions and beliefs regarding cancer, as well as their access to cancer care and barriers experienced. Based on these findings, the program sought to connect UW researchers with community organizations to create educational materials and clinical interventions based on the issues each community deemed most critical.

► **Contributions/Results:** The project has made important progress. It has built and sustained new partnerships in eight of the nine communities, each of which has taken different forms. Due to prior commitments and understaffing, one of the nine communities was unable to continue the project. The length of the project has enabled the development of trust, thereby, further solidifying these partnerships and creating opportunities for future projects.

The investigators succeeded in producing Community Readiness Assessments in eight of the nine communities. These projects have enriched the understanding of how each community views cancer. The most interesting findings may be those from the Hmong community, which emphasized the need for culturally appropriate cancer education and help in navigating the U.S. health care system.

The second survey, the Assessing the Quality of Care Survey, was completed in six of the eight communities. Recruitment of cancer patients has

been difficult in some communities due to cultural stigmas associated with a cancer diagnosis. Adhering to the principles of Community Based Participatory Research requires patience, as well as working on the community's timeline. The project's findings have been used to help create partnerships between community groups and UW researchers with funds and time to partner on priorities.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Timeline for Application of Results:** Less than three years

► **New Partnerships or Collaborations:** This project has built lasting partnerships in each of the eight communities, connecting local resources with UW researchers able to work on the issues identified in the assessments. In addition, it has helped forge collaboration by connecting previously unrelated health resources around the state, which has been especially true in the Amish community.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$1,675,564 from the Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

► **Dissemination:** This project has already resulted in two publications in the *Journal of Cancer Education* and the *Journal of Community Practice*. A number of working papers have been produced, which may eventually lead to publication. Investigators have made numerous presentations in communities regarding this project.

► **Additional Funding:** \$400,000 from several sources, including the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.