

Barriers to Papanicolaou Screening among HIV-Infected Women: a cross sectional survey

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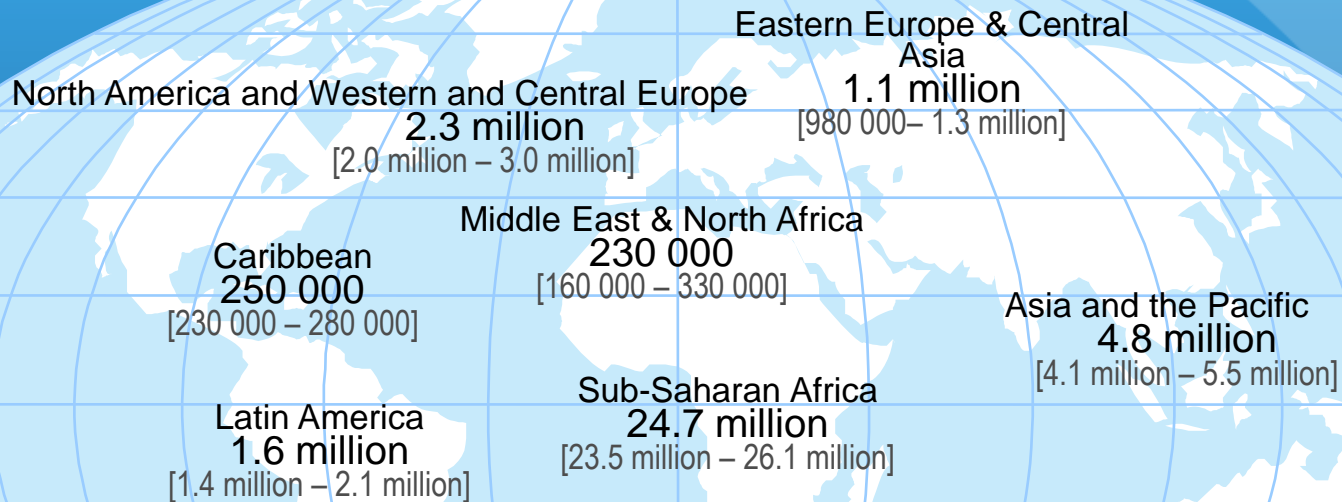
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Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV - 2013



Background on HIV/AIDS

- 35 million people live with HIV worldwide
 - 46% women
- 1.15 million individuals in the United States
 - 26% are women

Background on HIV/AIDS

- 1.5 million individuals died worldwide from AIDS in 2013
- 2.1 million individuals newly infected with HIV in 2013

Malignancy in HIV

- Increased risk of developing other disease
 - Malignancies
 - Cervical Cancer
 - Papanicolaou (Pap.) smear is the currently recommended method of screening

HIV/AIDS in our Population

- Tri-county Area (Clark, Mojave and Nye)
- 8,484 people living with HIV/AIDS
 - 1,371 (~16%) are women
- We work with women that receive care for their HIV/AIDS at the UMC Wellness Center

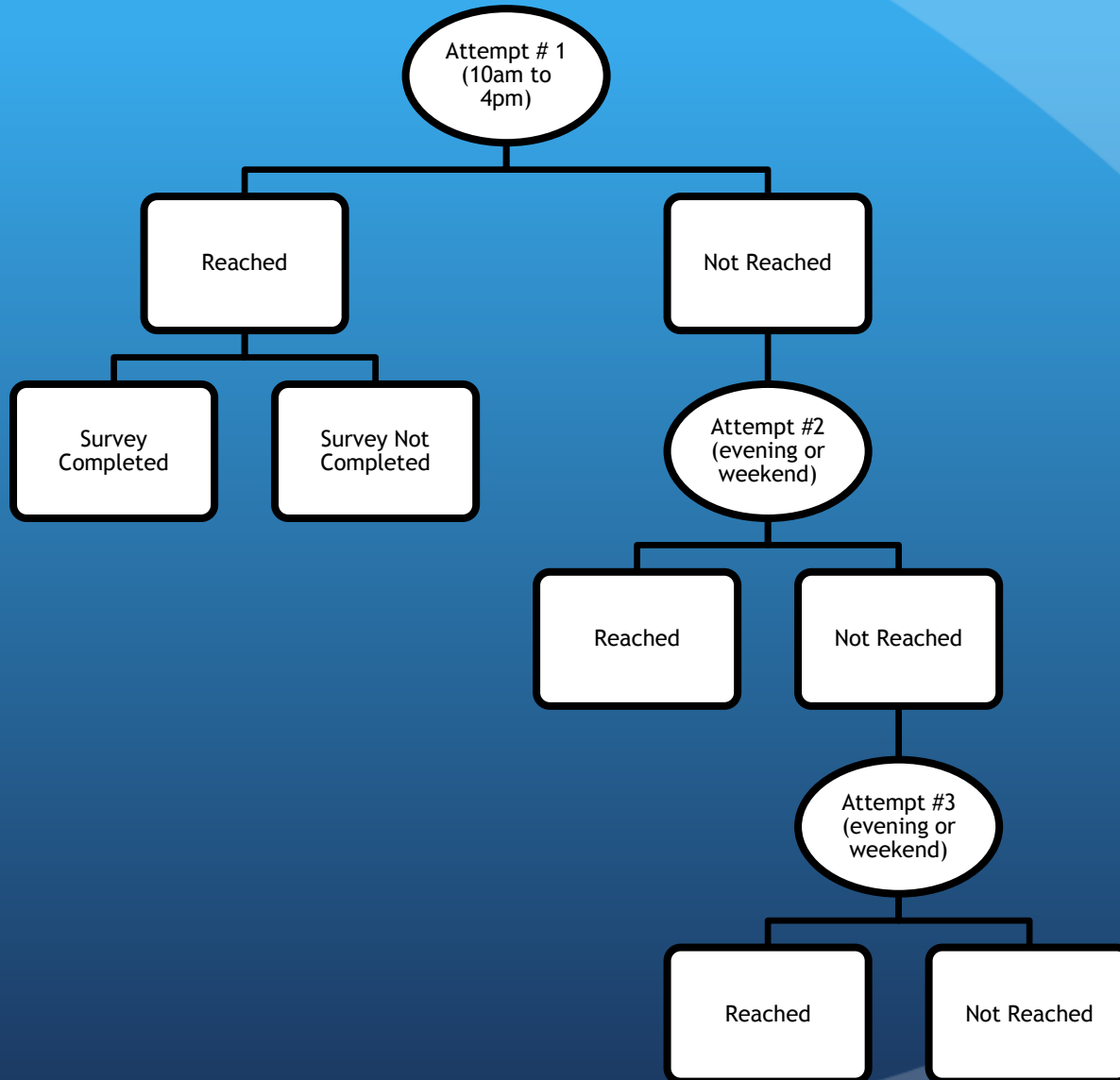
Study Objective and Design

- We sought to understand barriers to cervical cancer screening among HIV-infected women
- Our cohort was 318 HIV/AIDS positive women in our university-affiliated outpatient clinic

Methods

- Investigators contacted patients via telephone to complete an investigator administered 30-item questionnaire, 13 barriers questioned.
- 13 questions regarding potential barriers; some items asked:
 - Date of last Pap. smear
 - Perceived barriers to getting a Pap. smear
 - Preferred method of contact for making a Pap. smear appointment and/or getting a reminder

Phone Call Methodology



Results

- 141 patients were reached and 77 completed the survey (completion rate=55%)
- 46% did not receive Pap. smears in the past year

Results

- Perceived barriers to receiving Pap. smears were found
 - Cost - 23%
 - Lack of insurance - 14%
 - Transportation - 12%
 - Comfort level with physician - 6%

Results

Among those that did NOT receive a Pap. smear within the last year, 45% reported that being contacted via text messaging would best aid them to come in more regularly

Discussion

- No single perceived barrier is likely affecting cervical cancer screening rates among HIV/AIDS positive women
 - Rather a combination of factors
- This unique population deals with multiple medical and non-medical appointments related to their health
- Utilizing preferred communication methods for both scheduling and reminders is likely to increase screening rates among HIV/AIDS patients

How is texting being used internationally?

- Collectively known as “mHealth”
 - Appointment reminding and making
 - Emergencies and disasters
 - Medication adherence
 - Health education

“mHealth” in the Healthcare Setting

- Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center currently uses it throughout pregnancies; very positive outcomes
- Rural India
- Sub Saharan Africa mobile phone penetration in 2012 was 58%, expected to exceed 70% by 2015*
 - Initial data is promising, but more research needed

Conclusion

- Automated text messaging is the preferred mode of contact for HIV-infected women in Southern Nevada
- Clinics should be flexible and strive to find innovative ways to match the needs of their patients

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Thank You!