Community Case Study

Partnering with Health Care Systems to Assess Tobacco Use and Treatment Practices among Clinicians

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Abstract

**Background**

Tobacco is a major cause of preventable deaths. However, clinician use of an evidence-based guideline for tobacco use treatment remains low. This case study describes efforts to conduct a pre-intervention assessment of clinician practices and beliefs regarding tobacco use treatment.

**Community Context**

LSU Health, one the largest safety net public hospital systems in the US, consists of 10 facilities located in population centers across the state. The system serves a large proportion of Louisiana’s under and un-uninsured, low income, ethnic minority population, groups shown to exhibit high rates of tobacco use.

**Methods**

Activities included: 1) partnering with hospital administrators to conduct the clinician assessment, 2) identifying and adapting a tool to assess clinicians’ practices and beliefs regarding tobacco use, 3) developing a time-line and protocol for survey administration, 4) obtaining research approval for the study, and 5) accessing and using the hospital’s e-mail system as a means to conduct the survey.

**Outcomes**

Existing partnerships and system resources aided survey administration. Using the system’s internal e-mail was an effective means to reach clinicians for survey participation. Survey results were as follows: 1) 44% of 4,508LSU Health clinicians were reached for participation, of which 83% (1,629) completed the survey.

**Interpretation**

Using existing resources within the health care system to facilitate implementation of a system-wide survey proved successful.