

Conversation 6: Closing the Gap on Disparities: Innovations and Best Practices

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Practical actions you can take to close the gap on disparities.

- Increase physician and primary care provider awareness of the gap.
- Data collection on race and ethnicity in order to track and trend disparities.
- Let patients know who needs to be screened based on data collections.
- Health education, outreach, and training (e.g. [campeonas program](#)).
- Availability of screening to community.
- Patient navigation needed to direct patients to services.
 - Navigators need extra training now with implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Resources need to be available and within reach.

Survivor involvement to reduce disparities in cancer screening.

- Share personal survivorship stories with volunteers who then pass on those stories to others.
- Host a symposium with a survivorship panel where survivors share their struggles, which can help create a network.
- Develop a survivor calendar to stay in touch.
- Expand the Network of Hope to include a more diverse group of survivors.
- PSAs featuring survivor stories in a physician's waiting room.
 - This could be you... message.
- Mass media campaign using family members to deliver the message (used in North Carolina).
- Target younger people for screening education to help get the message across.

What are the disparities in health care that exist in your community?

- Screening among uninsured and Medicaid.
 - Working with ACS is helpful because of their name and experience.
 - Work with health plans in terms of sustainable funds.
 - Mobile units used.
- Low screening rates.
 - External person to reaches out to patients throughout the year and makes follow-up calls to see if patients received screening.
 - Managed by working with third parties and providers.
 - Develop an outreach program for zip codes with high breast cancer rates.
- How to approach the Spanish community in Arizona?
- Inner-city addicts need screening too.
 - Develop presentations for clinics targeted toward former prisoners and homeless.

What innovations or best practices for addressing these disparities have you used in your work setting?

- SWAT analysis with an S prong approach to look at all layers.
- Raise awareness internally and externally.
- Work with health plans.
- ACS should partner with minorities to create a common dialogue and message.
- Florida (not expanding Medicaid) leads to challenges.
 - New program or people from ACS need to open doors for Medicaid population.
 - Provider education needed at FQHCs and hospitals.
- Educate population with in-your-face campaigns (Alaska).
- Navigators help patients/populations within a community.
- Promote evidence-based behavioral research at local universities.
- Maximize resources within a community.
- Train coalitions (Substance Abuse Coalition has a great training program).
- Build networks.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and debunk myths of cancers.
- Partner with non-traditional medical providers, non-cancer clinicians, churches, libraries, museums, nail technicians, etc.