

Tailoring Cancer Educational Modules and Goals for Comanche Nation



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Introduction

- Native Americans (NAs) of the Southern Plains have excessive incidence and mortality rates for some types of cancer.
- NAs in Lawton, Oklahoma have higher cancer mortality rates for 4 out of 5 cancers compared to Whites and all NA's in the state.

Lawton Area

Age Adjusted Mortality Rates (AAMR) per 100,000, 1999-2003						
Rank	Primary Cancer Site	N= NA/AN Lawton Area Deaths	Lawton NA/AN AAMR	Lawton White AAMR	State All Races AAMR	State NA/AN AAMR
1	Lung & bronchus	31	45.4	69.6	63.3	69.3
2	Colon & rectum	20	29.7	20.4	20.4	26.1
3	Breast	14	18.8	12.9	14.8	15.4
4	Pancreas	10	13.8	12.9	14.8	9.1
5	Stomach	10	13.8	9.8	9.9	6.2

*Lawton Area Community Health Profile, 2008



NNACC

- Native Navigation across the Cancer Continuum in Comanche Nation (R15 NR 012195) is a three-year grant funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research.
- Based on foundational work of Dr. Linda Burhansstipanov, Native American Cancer Research (consultant)



Purpose

- To test GAS to assist the Comanche Nation in refining, expanding and adapting various navigator models currently used in other NA communities to address the community's and patients' needs across the continuum of cancer care.



Comanche Nation



- Comanche Nation is situated in an 8-county region in southwestern OK.
- Currently, there are approximately 14,732 enrolled members.
- 6,807 Comanche tribal members live within tribal jurisdiction.

Comanche Bands

- 5 Outstanding Comanche Bands identified:
 - I. Penatuka – “Honey Eaters or Quick Stricking” Band
 - II. Yapaituka – “Root Eaters” Band
 - III. Noyuka – “Wanderers” Band
 - IV. Kwaharu – “Antelope Eaters” Band
 - V. Kuutsutuka – “Buffalo Eaters” Band



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Represented Tribes

- Presently, 25,000 members of the Caddo, Delaware, Fort Sill Apache, Kiowa, Apache, and Wichita tribes are concentrated in Southwest Oklahoma and are also expected to benefit from this project.



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Participants

- Although the majority of Native American participants in this study will be Comanche, there will be other tribal members as well, due to a large population of other Native people living in the area of Comanche Nation jurisdiction.



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Project Phases

- The three phases to this project are:
 - I. Phase 1- Planning, Training, and Communication (Year 01)
 - II. Phase 2- Implementation (Years 02 and 03)
 - III. Phase 3- Evaluation (Years 01 through 03)



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Importance

- The study is important for four reasons:
 - I. Addresses an underserved group (Native Americans)
 - II. Aims to increase cancer knowledge of Native Americans within the Comanche community
 - III. Employs a strategy of goal setting found to be effective
 - IV. Tests a model of care – Native Navigation



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What is a Native Navigator?



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Native Navigator

- A culturally sensitive, trained Native American individual who guides others through barriers in the health care system.
- The primary focus of a Native Navigator is wellness, cancer awareness and education.
- Other duties of a Native Navigator include ensuring access to screening exams, treatment and follow-up care.

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Spirituality

The Comanche community has strong ties to their traditions and spiritual wellness, therefore, a Native Navigator may also provide emotional and spiritual support to Native patients and their families.



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Approach

- This multidisciplinary project (nursing, public health and statistics) employs a community-based participatory approach using mixed methods to examine **Native Navigators** as an intervention within the Comanche Nation community.



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Method

- Goal setting based on principles of Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) will be implemented with NA participants in tailored community cancer education workshops given by Native Navigators as a means of assisting NAs to make progress towards achieving behavior change.

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Method

- Qualitative- Focus groups
- Quantitative- Pre- and post-knowledge questions; Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS)
- Tailored interventions specific to Comanche Nation, which may result in increased knowledge and behavior change.



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Tailoring Process

- Qualitative - focus groups
- Data recorded and transcribed; notes taken
- Data analysis: Jana Lauderdale, PhD, RN (Comanche) – consultant
- Coding; themes identified
- Research team discussion
- Member checking



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Findings

- Five themes with subthemes



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Screening = Protection; We're all in this Together

- Men, women and cancer –Disease understanding has advanced
- Improve screening rates by making strong impressions
- Comanche health/illness beliefs impacting diagnosis and treatment



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Waiting not Acting: Fears associated with Screenings

- Scary medical language
- Lack of understanding of new screening procedures
- Waiting instead of acting
- Voices not being heard



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Living "Native Strong": Assessing Personal Risk

- Personal Habits
- Family Health History
- Family Tree
- Genetics



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Nourishing the body, mind and spirit: Re-connecting with our past

- Appreciating & recapturing ancestors' lifestyles
- Sustaining healthy lifestyles



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Keeping learners interested: Educational engagement in Comanche Nation

- Interactive activities
- Practice makes perfect
- Tailoring topics of modules presented
- Individual goal setting



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