Identifying Barriers to Low Pap Smear Screening Rates

Monique Merritt
East Arkansas Family Health Center
West Memphis, Arkansas
Introduction

- East Arkansas Family Health Center (EAFHC)
- Patient Center Medical Home Model – Level III
- 7,826 patients
- 7 providers
- Serves 4 counties: Crittenden, Poinsett, Mississippi, and Phillips Counties
- 49% of patients are 200% below Federal Poverty Level
- 54% patients uninsured
- 41% patients receive Medicaid
- Crittenden ranks 70 of 75 in Health Outcomes
Background

  - rural areas: 20% higher cervical cancer mortality risk, 15% higher incidences than non-rural areas
  - Black women have highest mortality risks for cervical cancer

- The American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) Guidelines
  - women ages 21 to 65: Pap screenings every 3 years.
  - At age 30: every 3 years or every 5 years w/Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) cotesting
Methodology

• Electronic Data Retrieval: eClinical Works, Bridge IT
  - pulled data reports from Uniform Data Systems w/ assistance of Continuously Quality Improvement Director

• Observations and Interviews
  - questioned providers and staff to obtain opinions on low Pap smear screening rates
  - viewed center set up and patient- provider and provider-staff interactions

• Project time: 6 weeks
Results

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of patients</td>
<td>7,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of female patients</td>
<td>5,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of females ages 24-64</td>
<td>3,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of females enrolled in Breast Care</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of female patients eligible for Breast Care based on age*</td>
<td>2,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This number reflects eligibility based upon age range ONLY, not income requirements.*

Table 1.1. General statistics of EAFHC female patients from the 3/1/2012 to 3/31/2013.
Results

East Arkansas Family Health Center Pap Smear Rates 3/1/2012-3/31/2013

Table 2.2. EAFHC overall Pap Smear Screening Rates
Results

Table 2.1. Pap Smear screening rates by Community Health Centers in Arkansas. Data was taken from graph given at patient centered medical care meeting with CQI directors from Community Health Centers of Arkansas. Identification of center names were excluded for confidentiality.
### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Total Patient Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient Count</td>
<td>Pap%</td>
<td>Patient Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>52.70%</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>39.02%</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>36.18%</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51.28%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>44.54%</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.55%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>40.56%</td>
<td>1,118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.4.** Pap Smear rates by provider at EAFHC. Provider names were excluded for confidentiality.
Results

Pap % By Provider:
East Arkansas Family Health Center

% Paps 3/1/2012 to 3/31/2013

East Arkansas Family Health Center Providers

Overall @ EAFHC  National Avg.

- Provider 1: 53%
- Provider 2: 39%
- Provider 3: 36%
- Provider 4: 51%
- Provider 5: 45%
- Provider 6: 25%
- Provider 7: 5%
- Overall @ EAFHC: 41%
- National Avg.: 93%

Pap %
Discussion

- EAFHC had a 41% Pap screening rate from 3/1/2012 to 3/31/2013
- Individual providers have similar screening rates
- EAFHC has already begun taking steps to improve numbers
- Further research is encouraged to explore patient perspectives

**Barriers Identified**

- Vulnerable patient population
- Arkansas Breast Care Program is limited
- Lack of Patient Education
- Patient financial Insufficiencies
- Coding Errors
- Ineffective staff and patient provisions and preparation for screenings
Limitations

• Short time frame for project
• Data collected for specific time interval
• No patient interviews
• Interviews were not documents
Conclusion

• 6 out 12 state ranking for screening rates is satisfactory
• New facility construction is a positive enhancement
• Opportunity to enhance services
• New community partners provide opportunity for long term financial assistance
• Keep the compassion
• Remember the mission of EAFHC
• Keep communication open
## Recommendations

| Short-Term | • Strengthen relationships with other organizations (churches, non-profit and private organizations, media)  
• Make educational materials available at care center  
• Educate patients on procedure during room preparation  
• Monitor coding input  
• Continue to encourage Breast Care enrollment  
• Reminder mail and phone calls |
| Medium-Term | • Hire more staff to focus on tracking and contacting patients  
• Provider and patient incentives |
| Long-term | • Encourage patient access to health information  
• Expand office hours  
• Exploit Pap flow sheet to tract normal/abnormal Paps  
• Address provider resistance to performing Paps  
• Expand in office follow up services for abnormal screening results (i.e., colposcopy) |
Acknowledgements

• Thank you to GE-National Medical Fellowship for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the Primary Care Leadership Program.

• Thank you to East Arkansas Family Health Center and its staff for opening up their center with welcoming arms and offering a unique learning experience. Special thanks to all providers for taking the extra time out with me despite their busy schedules.

• Thank you to my site mentor, Cherry Whitehead-Thompson and faculty mentor, Dr. David Maness, MD for their guidance and support through this experience.
THANK YOU!