



WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET SCREENED FOR CANCER



Summary of Perth County and Anabaptist Community Activities Reaching Under- and Never-Screened Populations, Provincial Project

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Communication medium: Primarily through email and telephone with occasional in person meetings and interventions

Duration of work: October 2012 - ongoing

Primary work:

Through the partnership with PDHU we were able to run cancer screening interventions with Amish and Mennonite communities in Perth District, ON. These interventions were developed in response to the focus group finding that Old Order communities are under-screened which leads to lower regional screening rates in areas with large Old Order communities. Interventions were tailored to the Old Order way of life to ensure cultural congruency and was structured in a day long format including: a ride into town by bus, access to mammogram and Pap smears, health teachings on topics identified by the community, food, fellowship, and time for shopping. Interventions were held in November 2012, April 2013, and another is planned for March 2014. As well, cancer screening health modules will be included in the February 2014 New Brides canning workshop.

Another significant contribution of this partnership has been the development of a community wide health survey for Old Order Amish and Mennonite communities. The survey will be used to assess burden of disease and health priorities within the community. Survey was distributed late January 2014 with analysis expected to occur in March of 2014.

Key Findings:

Old Order communities present unique barriers to services that require time and trust to address. In the case of the Amish and Mennonites, determining that HPV screening was superfluous was as important an accomplishment as increasing FOBT kits completed as it addressed a community raised concern (whether HPV screening was worth the out of pocket expense given the monogamous nature of the community). This project found that targeted interventions that packaged screenings into a one day event removed logistical significant barriers to screening. Also, bundling screening with other health activities such as educational workshops on community identified topics was a successful means to increase uptake. Findings of the community wide survey are forthcoming.