

PF and ALEF and higher diet quality was associated with higher BLEF. Conclusion Symptom severity of older, overweight cancer survivors negatively affects physical function. However, greater weight loss and physical activity were associated with higher functioning scores, regardless of symptom severity. Findings build from the recent emphasis on the negative effects of obesity on survivor outcomes to highlight weight loss as an important factor in maintaining function in older cancer survivors.

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### **Racial Disparity in Receiving a Physician Recommendation for Human Papillomavirus Vaccine among US Adolescent Girls: Trend from 2008 to 2012**

Rahman M, Laz TH, Berenson AB

To examine the trend of racial disparity in receiving a physician recommendation for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among US adolescent girls. Methods: We analyzed National Immunization Survey of Teens (NIS-Teen) 2008–2012 data and examined the trend of racial disparity in receiving a physician recommendation for HPV vaccine among 13–17 year old US adolescent girls. Results: Overall, the weighted proportion of girls who received a physician recommendation was 49.2%, 57.0%, 54.9%, 58.8% and 65.3% in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively ( $p$  for trend  $< 0.001$ ). The respective weighted proportion for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black and Hispanic girls were: 53.6%, 60.7%, 59.0%, 63.4% and 70.2%; 42.7%, 50.0%, 46.3%, 52.5% and 62.8%; and 40.0%, 50.8%, 48.0%, 51.4% and 56.5% ( $P < 0.001$  for all 5 years). After adjusting for demographic characteristics, separate weighted analysis for each year of data showed that non-Hispanic black and Hispanic girls were less likely to receive a physician recommendation than non-Hispanic white girls ( $P < 0.01$  for all 5 years). However, there was no significant difference between Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic girls ( $P > 0.05$  for all 5 years). Conclusions: Reasons for racial disparity in receiving a physician recommendation need to be identified and addressed to achieve the desired level of HPV vaccine uptake among US adolescent girls, irrespective of race/ethnicity.

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### **Charitable Food Distribution Sites Offer Novel Opportunities for Cancer Prevention Research and Intervention Among Vulnerable, Hard-to-reach, and Underserved Populations**

Higashi RT, Craddock Lee SJC, Leonard T, Cuate E, Pruitt SL

People who live in food-insecure households face significant unmet health needs. At the same time, this population may be under-represented in clinical research studies because of the population's limited and intermittent engagement with the

health care system. We describe preliminary results of a research partnership between UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) and Crossroads Community Services (CCS), the largest charitable food distributor of the North Texas Food Bank. The goal of the study is to improve understanding of this population's health- and mammography-related needs, knowledge and service utilization. Eight structured focus groups were conducted in English ( $n = 4$ ) and Spanish ( $n = 4$ ) at CCS. Discussions focused on 13 open-ended questions designed to solicit group communication about members' health status, healthcare access, mammography awareness and utilization, and attitudes toward participation in future health research. Participants included 42 CCS clients, about 90% of whom were Hispanic or African-American women. Key findings include: (1) Participants reported multiple co-morbid conditions among themselves and household members, yet utilization of health services was cost-dependent and often limited to emergency triage. (2) Many participants did not know what a mammogram was and utilization was closely linked to having health insurance, which most did not. (3) Despite reporting numerous daily life challenges, the majority were interested in participating in future research-related focus groups as a means of communicating their health needs and obtaining information and emotional support from peers. Recruitment from charitable food distribution sites will target a high-need, underserved population. The community-academic partnership between CCS and UTSW has created a robust foundation for cancer prevention research that has already produced important insights about the population's needs and willingness to participate in research. Ongoing research is focused on implementing longitudinal health assessments of CCS clients. These data will be used to guide future interventions to increase awareness and utilization of cancer prevention services, e.g. mammography, in a population facing multiple barriers to care.

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### **Can the "Hispanic Paradox" Shed Light on Childhood Cancer Risk?**

Heck JE, Park AS, Cockburn M, Ritz B

The "Hispanic epidemiologic paradox" is the commonly observed phenomenon that foreign-born Hispanic mothers who emigrate to the United States have consistently good pregnancy outcomes, such as decreased rates of low birthweight, despite high levels of poverty. We examined whether this advantage extends to childhood cancer risk. Methods: The study included all children born in California from 1983–2007. Birthrolls were linked to California Cancer Registry records of children ages  $< 6$  who were diagnosed with cancer 1988–2007 ( $N = 8710$  cases, 9,519,438 controls). The mother's Hispanic origin, ethnic ancestry, and country of birth were ascertained from the birth certificate. We used Cox proportional hazard models to estimate the risk for cancer based upon maternal birthplace and ethnic ancestry. Models stratified by tumor subtype and adjusted for maternal and paternal age. Summary of results: The children of foreign-born Hispanic women had lower rates of several cancers [acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL; odds ratio (OR) = 1.05, 95% confidence interval (CI) = 0.96–1.14); glioma (OR = 0.51,

# Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention

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