

Partnership with Foreign-Trained Health Professionals in Cervical Cancer Prevention

Cheng Tao Wang
Betty Wu-Lawrence



History of the Cross Cultural Health Services

- The Toronto Chinese Health Survey (1996).
- Early partnership/beginning: Toronto Public Health, St. Michael's Hospital and Alexandra Park Community Centre (1998).

Build Capacity x Demand

In 2000 the clinic moved to Scadding Court Community Centre due to needs for capacity to meet increased demands of services in:

- Stable service in kind resources
- Fund raising support.

While maintaining resources in:

- Neighborhood distance
- Free drop-in child care
- Chinese language service providers



CCHS Cross Cultural Health Services

- at Scadding Court Community Centre (still in the Chinatown neighborhood) without core funding,
- in its first 2 ½ years (2000 – 2003) provided primary care services to 1,176 patients

Patients' Profile

- First language: Mandarin (67%)
- Status in Canada: Immigrant (65%) , citizens (22%), refugee claimants (4%), undetermined status (8%).
- Years in Canada: (27%) 0-1 year, (59%) 1-5 years
- OHIP coverage: (66%) insured, (34%) uninsured
- Age in years: (22%) 0-16, (22%) 17-30, (50%) 31-65, (4%) 66-89
- English Ability (self identified) : (52%) Beginner, (28%) Intermediate, (18%) fluent, (1%) no English ability.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Initiative

- Cervical Cancer Prevention Initiatives CCPI (2000) funded by the Ontario Women's Health Secretariat - \$306,108 grant to Scadding Court Community Centre.
- Three year pilot/research project
- To develop a culturally sensitive Cervical Cancer Prevention Program in the context of a community based health service model for immigrant women that is transferable to different culture groups
- To reduce barriers and provide equitable access to effective health services for Chinese-speaking immigrant women.



CCPI Partners

St. Michael's Hospital

- Founded in 1892 by the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Long history of caring for the sick and the poor of Toronto's inner city
- Fully affiliated teaching hospital with the University of Toronto
- Department of Family and Community medicine has long tradition of serving the marginalized communities of the inner city such as the homeless and HIV positive patients.
- Two staff physicians in the department speaks Mandarin.

Scadding Court Community Centre

- Established in March 1975.
- Situated on the corner of Dundas and Bathurst Streets. Near Chinatown.
- Living within its catchment area are many new immigrants, especially the Chinese community.
- The community centre provides settlement services for Newcomers to Canada, emergency childcare, school readiness workshops for newcomer children, family literacy program, after school programs, etc.

Foreign Trained Health Professionals

- 49 volunteers
- Length of service: 2-18 months, average 8.5 months
- Volunteer hours contributed: over 3,283 hours
- 95% women
- age 30-52 (mean = 35.5 yrs)
- length in Canada (1 month - 3 yrs)
- Most from major urban centres in China
- Previous profession (84% in medical field)

Contributions of the Partners

St. Michael's Hospital Department of Family and Community Medicine

- Research support
- Staff physicians

Scadding Court Community Centre

- Health Services Coordinator, Health Services Volunteer Coordinator
- Physical facilities

Contributions of the Partners

FTHP Volunteers

- Development and translation of educational materials
- Community outreach
- Delivery of educational materials
- Administration of surveys and facilitation of focus groups
- Research data entry and analysis

Volunteer Training Program

- 4 hrs weekly workshops
- Professional English
- Workshop facilitation/presentation
- Microsoft access database
- Clinic administration
- Resume/cover letter writing and job search skills
- Survey administration and research
- workshops in areas of health & research

CCPI Study Design

- Target participants are Chinese speaking women
- Participants recruited through FTHP volunteers personal outreach, health fair displays and media announcements.
- Participants attended an educational workshop which included a pre-workshop questionnaire, education workshop including a PowerPoint presentation and an educational video, questions and answers, and post-workshop questionnaire.

CCPI Study Design

- Experimental Group (n=101)
clinic clients attended Pap test workshop
- Internal Control (n=126)
clinic clients did not attend Pap test workshop
- External Control (n=89).
Scarb. Clinic clients did not attend Pap test workshop

CCPI Participant Characteristics

- 25-44 years old (75%)
- Married (90%)
- Been pregnant in the past (93%)
- Been in Canada less than 5 years (88%)
- Speak Mandarin (84%)
- Not fluent in English (49%)
- Highly educated (83% post-secondary)
- Family income <\$25,000 (72%)

CCPI Participant Characteristics

- Has had health services in the past 1-2 years (82%)
- Previous check up in last 2 years (71%)
- Previous pelvic exam (89%)
- Previous Pap?



Research Outcome

Effects of CCPI Workshops on barriers, testing, knowledge and behaviour

Dependent Measures	Experimental	Internal	External
% identifying ≥ 1 Barriers to testing	13.9%	41.3%	38.2%
% identifying ≥ 1 Reasons for testing	95%	81.7%	84.3%
	96%	54.8%	38.2%
% know what Pap is	91.1%	44.4%	33.7%
% know purpose of Pap	94.1%	57.9%	41.6%
% know who needs Pap			
	85.1%	54.8%	46.1%
% ever done Pap test	59.4%	31%	27%
% done Pap test in last year	83.2%		74.2%
% plan to have Pap test in next 12 months		78.6%	

Focus Groups

- Pre and post workshop focus groups were conducted to assess the perceived differences between medical systems in China and Canada, immigrant women health concerns and needs, Pap test and cervical cancer knowledge
- 129 women participated in 12 focus groups facilitated by FTHP volunteers
- Focus groups discussions were audio taped and written notes were kept for analysis

Focus Group Results

- Chinese medical system is readily available to those who has access
- No gatekeepers. Patients directly access specialists that they feel they need
- Integration of CTM and western medicine in China
- Canadian system suffers from long waiting times, fewer drugs prescribed and more blood tests
- There is universal health care but it is not available to recent immigrants (<3 mo.). Drugs are not covered. Costs are generally higher in Canada
- More advanced technology in Canada and more health promotion.

Focus Group Results

- Pelvic exams are usually done by female gynecologists in China
- Patients often does not know the reason for pelvic exams. They do not know if a Pap test was done
- Many believe cervical cancer is linked to poor hygiene and sexual activities.
- Many believe pelvic exams should only be done after marriage
- Post-workshop focus groups results showed women demonstrated more accurate knowledge about cervical cancer and Pap test (knowledge score increased from 4.32 to 8.91)

FTHP Volunteer Experience

- Reasons for participating: meet new friends, Canadian job experience, improve English skills, learn about Canadian medical system, help the community, use their skills
- Likes: interacting with clients, meet new people, gaining new support systems, contributing to a important project, collaborating with others, friendly helpful staff.

FTHP Volunteer Experience

- Changes needed: want to be better informed about project goals and results, more opportunities to improve English.
- All agree volunteer experience met their goals and it will be helpful in finding paid work in Canada

Conclusions

- Many Chinese immigrant women have misconceptions and misknowledge about cervical cancer and Pap tests
- Language, financial and culture barriers exists for immigrant women in accessing health care
- Partnership between the immigrant community and the medical community using FTHP volunteers as a liason is effective in improving cervical cancer prevention efforts

Conclusions

- FTHP volunteers gained valuable skills and are very satisfied with their contribution to the project
- This model of successful partnership may be transferred to other new immigrant communities and other health initiatives to improve our outreach efforts



THANK YOU