Background

- Diabetes is a major global public health problem affecting 347 million people worldwide, and 80% of diabetes-related deaths occur in low and middle-income countries.
- Diabetes is a chronic non-communicable metabolic disease characterized by persistently high blood glucose levels due to insulin deficiency.
- Limited data exists on diabetes awareness in Haiti.
- Haiti is the poorest country in Latin America.
- Limited data exists on diabetes awareness in Haiti.
- Our objective was to evaluate diabetes awareness and knowledge in Petit-Goâve, a rural Haitian community.

Methods

- Recruitment by community health workers via community engagement meetings and radio broadcast.
- Open enrollment of consecutive patients seeking treatment.
- Sample size: n=383.
- Education is a strong determinant of health, and Haiti's literacy rate is 48.7%.
- The Haiti average life expectancy is 62.06 years, compared to 78.64 years in the United States.

Results

- Participant demographics: gender.
- Participant demographics: age.
- Participant demographics: years of school.
- Diabetes awareness survey.

- Diabetes prevalence.

- Stated complications that are caused by diabetes.

- Sources of diabetes information.

Future Directions

- Survey urban and rural communities to evaluate differences in diabetes awareness.
- Evaluate the level of diabetes awareness in healthcare providers.
- Use results to tailor diabetes education programs by addressing common concerns.
- Target the media and healthcare providers to increase diabetes education and awareness.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. David Cutler for his leadership and guidance, Nancy Larko from the Haitian diabetes organization FHADIMAC, the UCLA Blum Center for supporting students and the Desgranges family without whom none of this would have been possible.

Funding Sources: UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, Private Donors.

Discussion

- Self-reported diabetics showed a greater awareness of diabetes in comparison to non-diabetics.
- Mental stress was chosen as the most common cause of diabetes, which can possibly be related to Vodou beliefs and traditions.
- 56.9% of the total participants knew that diabetes could be prevented.
- The largest difference between self reported diabetics and non-diabetics was whether diabetes caused complications in other organs.
- Less than 60% of participants stated diabetes related complications.
- Participants revealed a large void of diabetes information from healthcare providers (64.5%).
- Participants showed increased awareness of diabetes among self-reported diabetics.

Factors contributing to diabetes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Individuals with self-reported diabetes (n=179)</th>
<th>Non-diabetic population (n=193)</th>
<th>Total population (n=382)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental stress</td>
<td>124 (69.3)</td>
<td>126 (65.3)</td>
<td>250 (65.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History</td>
<td>67 (37.4)</td>
<td>79 (40.9)</td>
<td>146 (38.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consuming More Sweets</td>
<td>56 (31.3)</td>
<td>83 (43.0)</td>
<td>139 (36.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>44 (24.6)</td>
<td>53 (27.5)</td>
<td>97 (25.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased physical activity</td>
<td>36 (20.1)</td>
<td>51 (26.4)</td>
<td>87 (22.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diabetes Awareness in Petit-Goâve, Haiti

Rebecca Barber1, Joseph Cioffi1, Lyolya Hovhannisyan1, David Cutler MD2, Tania Desgrets MD3

1UCLA-HGD Research Initiative, 2UCLA Department of Family Medicine, 3Henri Gerard Desgranges Health Center, Petit Goave, Haiti