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Did racial representation change at our outpatient sports medicine clinic during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Introduction/Objective

- COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
 - Increased infection, hospitalization, and death rates^{1,2}
- Black Americans → unequal access to outpatient care vs. White Americans³
 - Inequity worsened during the COVID-19 Pandemic⁴
- Maine population: 94.25% “White;” 1.42% “Black”⁵
- July 2020 COVID cases: 66.8% “White;” 22% “Black”⁶
- **Did this disparity reflect in in our sports medicine clinic?**

Methods

- Compare demographic characteristics of all outpatient SM visits
 - July 1 - September 30th, 2019 vs. July 1 - September 30th, 2020
 - Ethnic group, race, marital status, gender, age, employment status, type(s) of insurance, preferred language, and ‘interpreter needed’ status.
- Chi-square tests



No change in Racial Representation at a Sports Medicine Clinic during the COVID-19 Pandemic

William Douglas, DO; William Dexter, MD; Amy Haskins, PhD; Christina Holt, MD

		July- Sept 2019		July-Sept 2020		p-value
		N	%	N	%	
Total		2672	100	2425	100	
Race	White/Caucasian	2438	91.2	2190	90.3	0.25
	Black/African-American	109	4.1	93	3.8	
	Other	89	3.3	96	4	
	Unknown/refused	36	1.3	46	1.9	
Ethnicity	Hispanic	30	1.1	48	2	0.02
	Non-hispanic	2605	97.5	2332	96.2	
Age	0-9	52	1.9	59	2.4	0.007
	10-17	242	9.1	168	6.9	
	18-65	1698	63.5	1528	63	
	66-79	553	20.7	569	23.5	
	80+	127	4.8	101	4.2	
Insurance	Commercial	1506	56.4	1328	54.8	0.03
	Medicaid	272	10.2	274	11.3	
	Medicare	716	26.8	664	27.4	
	Other Government Plan	60	2.2	78	3.2	
	None	118	4.4	81	3.3	
Employment	Employed (full + part)	1270	47.6	1262	52	0.08
	Retired	616	23.1	531	21.9	
	Disabled	151	5.6	123	5.1	
	Student	101	3.8	63	2.6	
	Not employed	533	20	446	18.4	
Marital Status	Married/Domestic Partner	1366	51.1	1324	54.6	0.11
	Single	966	36.2	803	33.1	
	Divorced/Legally Separated	194	7.3	180	7.4	
	Widowed	129	4.8	102	4.2	
	Unknown/refused	17	0.6	16	0.7	
Interpreter Needed	Yes	92	3.4	72	3	0.34
	No	2580	96.6	2353	97	
Language	English	2542	95.2	2331	96.1	0.12
	Other	127	4.8	94	3.9	

Table 1. Demographic Data

Results/Discussion

- No significant differences in racial breakdown of patients
- Significant increase in proportion of “Hispanic” patients; 0-9 year-olds and 66-79 year-olds; Medicaid, Medicare, and “Other Governmental” insurance plans; Employed
- Significant decrease in proportion of 10-17 year-olds; Commercial insurances; Retired/disabled/students/unemployed
- No statistically significant changes in ‘Needing an interpreter’; Language spoken; Marital status

Conclusion

Despite well-documented disparities in general regarding access to health care as well as the unequal impact of COVID-19 on minority populations in Maine and across the nation, we did not detect reduced racial minority representation in our outpatient sports medicine clinic during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

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