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Sun Protection Intervention for Urban Youth

Erika Polanco

Wayne State University, gm3199@wayne.edu

Jordan Tall

Wayne State University, jtall@wayne.edu

Erin Caris

Wayne State University, hj2355@wayne.edu

Arjun Muralidharan

Wayne State University, gh7699@wayne.edu

Michael Escobar

Wayne State University, mescoar415@wayne.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Erika Polanco, Jordan Tall, Erin Caris, Arjun Muralidharan, Michael Escobar, Sofia Howson, Jason Liu, Alyssa Goodwin, and Steven Daveluy

Sun Protection Intervention for Urban Youth

Polanco, Erika (Wayne State University School of Medicine, gm3199@wayne.edu), William Tall, Jordan (Wayne State University School of Medicine, jtall@wayne.edu), Caris, Erin (Wayne State University School of Medicine, hj2355@wayne.edu), Muralidharan, Arjun (Wayne State University School of Medicine, gh7699@wayne.edu), Escobar, Michael (Wayne State University School of Medicine, mescobar415@wayne.edu), Howson, Sofia (Wayne State University School of Medicine, Hh7761@wayne.edu), Liu, Jason (Wayne State University School of Medicine, hi2593@wayne.edu), Goodwin, Alyssa (Wayne State University School of Medicine, fv3566@wayne.edu), Daveluy, Steven (Wayne State University School of Medicine, sdaveluy@med.wayne.edu)

Introduction:

Skin cancer is less prevalent in persons with darker skin color compared to those with light skin, but contrarily is associated with greater mortality rates. Experts agree this is primarily due to late detection. Challenges in early detection include low public awareness, uncommon presentation, lower index of suspicion among health care providers, and decreased access to specialty care. To address some of these barriers, we designed a survey-based study to discover current beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes of urban youth towards sun protection before and after an educational intervention.

Methods:

In 2022, 17 children living in metro Detroit participated in an educational presentation regarding sun protection and completed pre- and post- surveys. Statistical significance was calculated via Chi-square tests.

Results:

After education, there was a significant increase in likelihood of sunscreen application before going outdoors ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant difference after education regarding sunscreen beliefs ($p = 0.463$), sunscreen application frequency ($p = 0.835$), reapplication of sunscreen ($p = 1.074$), daily sunscreen application ($p = 0.099$), alternative sun protection ($p = 0.863$), and likelihood of sharing about sun protection ($p = 0.227$).

Conclusions:

This study was paired with a program that encouraged children to be active outside. The aim was to increase the likelihood of sunscreen application before going outdoors. In the pre-survey, more people said they would tell family and friends, but this was not reflected in the post survey. Future directions could include an interactive activity to share educational information and reinforce objectives.