

MODEL OF PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

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Background: African American (AA) men have the highest incidence of prostate cancer compared to other racial/ethnic groups in the US. Also, they do not have adequate knowledge about prostate cancer disease, and are less likely to correctly identify early symptoms of prostate cancer, more likely to believe pain is the first symptom of prostate cancer and have a poor prostate cancer survival rate.

Rationale and Purpose: Few studies have attempted to fully understand factors which facilitate / deter prostate cancer screening among at risk AA men using a valid theoretical framework. Thus, the goal of this study was to develop a framework, which explains African American men's participation in prostate cancer screening based on health behavior theories.

Methods: Study participants were AA men between 40 and 70 years resident in Florida. A 137 item survey was used to assess past behavior, behavioral intention, attitude, social norm, perceived behavioral control, program intervention factors, perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, appraisal processes and demographic variables.

Results: Valid responses were received from 194 men. Most of the participants were between 50 and 59 years, had some college training, married, urban residents, and full-time employees. Intention to participate in prostate cancer screening was directly determined by past behavior, attitude, perceived behavioral control, perceived susceptibility, knowledge and employment status. Physician discussion and income were also found to be significant predictors of prostate cancer knowledge.

Conclusions and Implications: Results from this study notes important factors that can be targeted to enhance informed decision making about prostate cancer screening by AA men. Future studies should focus on developing and evaluating the effectiveness of intervention programs based on these factors.