

MINUTES FROM DIABETES WORKING GROUP MEETING ARIZONA TEAM

Friday, October 16, 1998
10:00-12:00am

Rural Health Office Conference Room 2501
E. Elm St. Tucson, AZ 85716

After introductions were made, Emma Viera-Negron and Tim Flood reported on the data results from the formative research previously conducted in Douglas. These results were compared with national and state statistics. The odds ratios showed a significant relationship between diabetes and three variables: age; body mass index; and having a mother, sister, or brother with diabetes. In the sample of 915, prevalence of diabetes was 13%, or 15% including gestational diabetes, as compared to 7% prevalence in the entire United States. 81 % of known diabetics had screening results outside of the ranges established for the survey. 19% of known diabetics had screening results which fell within the limits established for the survey.

Katie Careaga presented the follow up data. The most striking result was that, of the 152 people shown to have elevated glucose levels at the time of the survey, only 60 (39.5%) had seen a health care provider eight weeks later. The most common reasons for not going included not having money/insurance and not having time. The survey results and follow up reveal a high need for interventions dealing with both prevention and control of the disease.

Discussion of the data results followed the presentation. In the face of such dismal data, the question was raised as to how to approach the community. Jill de Zapien suggested that we identify the assets and resources available in the community and make ourselves available as a resource. An outline was developed for approaching the community:

- Present the data
- What are the implications of the data
- What can be done

Another question addressed was, "To whom in the community will we present this data?" Several people wanted to contact the people who participated in the study, but this is not feasible due to the fact that they did not originally give their consent. Others discussed writing an article in the newspaper, going on the radio, or conducting a town hall meeting. The group agreed that the first step must be to go back to the people who were involved in sponsoring the study. A second meeting may include health care workers and community government and leaders. This question will be discussed further at the meeting with sponsors in Douglas.

As time was running short, we decided to postpone the presentation of potential models for intervention until the next meeting. Instead, we passed out the outline for the presentation so that people could review to models before the next meeting. Linda Murphy and Carmen Ramirez agreed to participate in this presentation. The next meeting was scheduled for: November 25, 9:00-12:00am at the Sun Life Health Center, Casa Grande.