TITLE: Mapping Cancer Incidence and Mortality

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE: Cancer is the leading cause of death in Alachua County and cancer mortality is much higher than Florida and the United States. Late-stage cancers are the most common cause of cancer mortality and cancer screening is designed to detect cancers earlier so that cure may be possible. Interestingly, insurance coverage, median household income, unemployment, high school education, and English language literacy do not associate with cancer mortality in Florida, suggesting that other factors are influential in accessing cancer screening services. Preliminary observations from the UF Mobile Outreach Clinic confirm and extend these data by finding several cases of late-stage cancers in people with health insurance from poor socio-economic and poor health areas who were seeking charity care due to the convenience of the clinic.

HYPOTHESIS: Late stage cancers and cancer deaths co-exist in areas of poverty, crime, violence, and other poor health indicators.

METHODS AND MATERIALS AND DATA ANALYSIS: Geo-coded cancer data from the Florida cancer registry will be used to create cancer density maps of Alachua County. Cancers of interest include breast, lung, colon, cervical, and blood cancers.

ROLE OF MEDICAL STUDENT: Medical students involved in this project will participate in map creation and visit hot-spot neighborhoods to begin to create focus groups assessing access to cancer screening.

FUNDING SOURCES: UF Health Medical Guild

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS: