



Biostatistics Training Week: Impressions and Outcomes

Kyle Muus, PhD
U. of North Dakota

Impressions of Training Week

Prep work:

- Literature review
- Finalized topic

Early week:

- Research Questions
- Analysis Strategy

Mid week:

- Preparing Data
- Statistical Analyses & Summaries

Late week:

- Consulting mentors
- Interpreting results

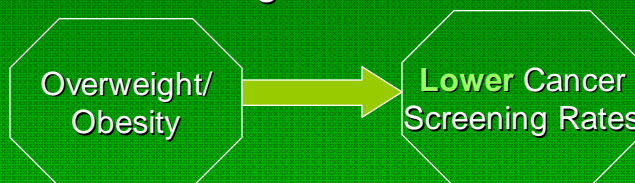
End Product

- Complete manuscript draft
- A rewarding feeling

Body Mass Index and Cancer Testing in Older AI/AN Men

Background

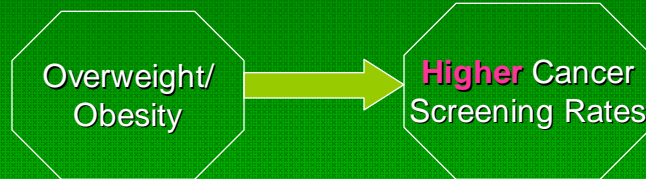
- BMI - found to be related to some types of cancer testing



- Why?
 - Discrimination by health facility personnel;
 - Shame or embarrassment regarding clinic visits

Background (cont.)

- Some Studies:



- Why?

- Heavier persons more apt to have clinic visits, which may increase cancer testing
- Obesity may contribute to certain symptoms which may spur cancer testing

Objectives

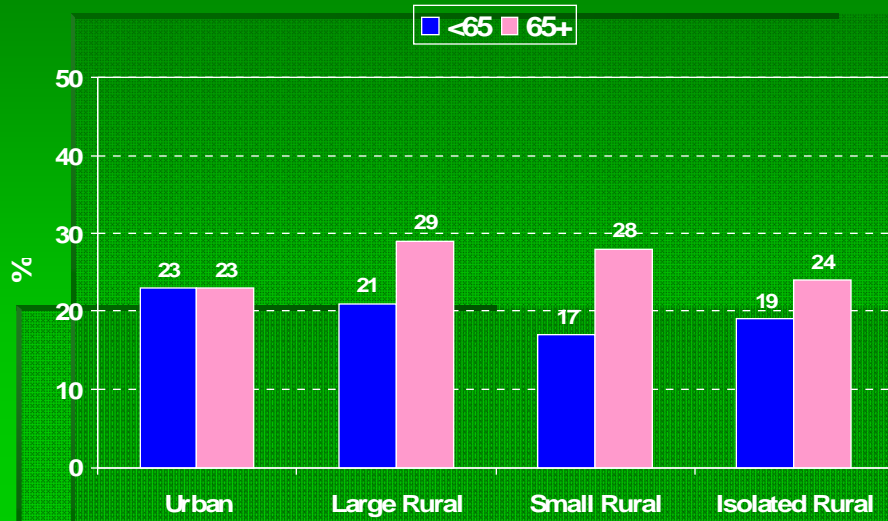
- Describe the prevalence of FOB and PSA testing within the past year by age group and rurality.
- Estimate the strength of association between BMI, FOB testing, and PSA testing, after adjusting for demographic and health factors.

Data

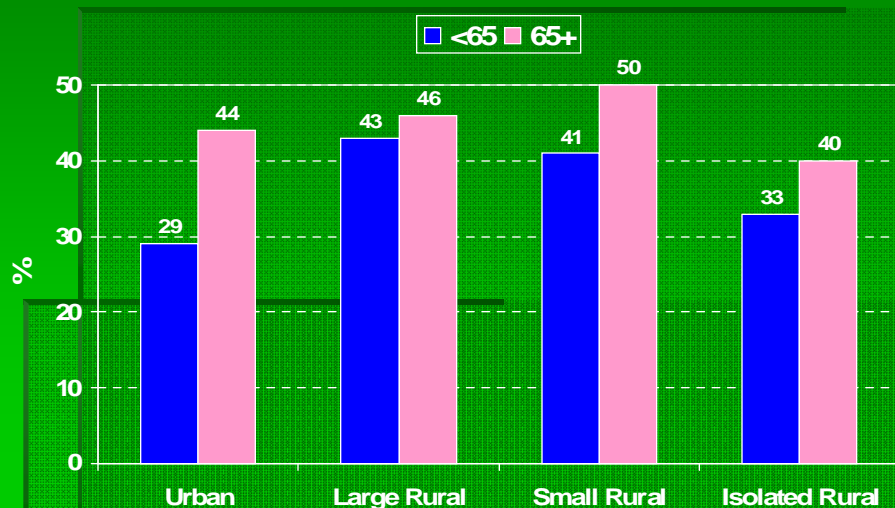
- Sample of 8,305 AI/ANs aged 55 and older from across the U.S.
- Voluntary survey administered face-to-face by trained interviewers.
- Sponsor: National Resource Center on Native American Aging, University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health.

Results

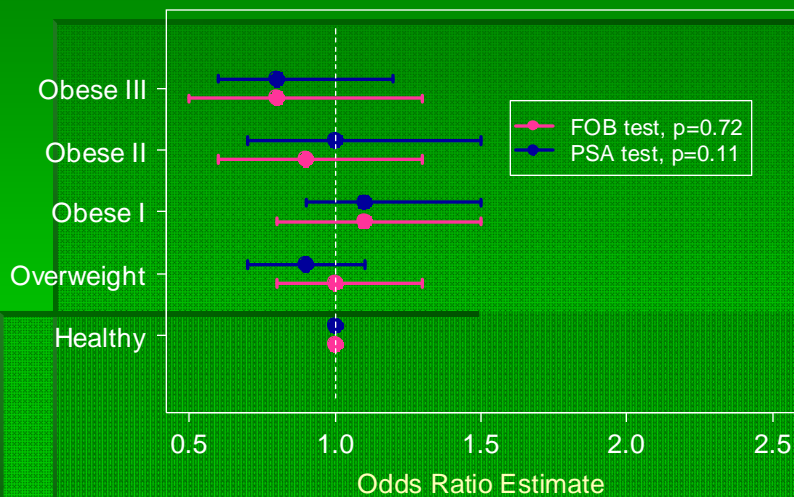
Prevalence of FOB Testing in the Past Year, by Rurality and Age



Prevalence of PSA Testing in the Past Year, by Rurality and Age



FOB and PSA Testing Odds Ratios by BMI Category



Results (cont.)

- Older men more likely to have obtained recent PSA and FOB testing.
- AI/AN men in isolated rural areas less likely to have obtained a recent PSA test.
- BMI was not significantly associated with PSA or FOB testing.

Conclusions

- BMI not an important predictor of cancer testing in this sample
- Runs counter to previous studies on cancer testing
- Why?
 - Unmeasured cultural differences
 - Overweight/obesity are the norm; discrimination may be lessened
 - Measurement error

Recommendations

- More research on potential obstacles for obtaining timely PSA and FOB screenings:
 - Rurality
 - Absence of a usual health provider
 - Being uninsured
- Delineate IHS role in providing cancer education, screening and treatment, and the efficacy of provided care.