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Recruitment and Retention of African Americans with Severe Mental Illness in Community Research

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African Americans with SMI in Research

■ Inpatient Studies

- 52% AA vs. 36% white
(Chen et al., 1998)
- 81% AA vs. 19% white
(Neighbors et al., 2003)

■ Outpatient Studies

- 10% AA vs. 66% white
(Snowden et al., 1995)
- 19% AA vs. 70% white
(Zhang & Snowden, 1999)

Purpose

- To measure the success of recruitment and retention of AAs with SMI in a community based randomized clinical trial

Success Rates

■ Recruitment

- 79%-86%

(Arean et al., 2003; Dilworth-Anderson & Williams, 2004; Gilliss et al., 2001; Gooden et al., 2005; Thompson et al., 1996)

■ Factors associated with successful recruitment

- Face to face contact
- Trained research staff
- Community advisory board or gatekeeper

■ Retention

- 41%-99%

(Dilworth-Anderson & Williams, 2004; Gorelick et al., 2000; Hessel et al., 2001; Menendez et al., 2001)

■ Factors associated with successful retention

- Extensive contact lists
- Persistent phone calls
- Home visits
- Visits to institutions and shelters
- Letters
- Databases

Methods

- Subject Recruitment
 - Four residential treatment programs (RTP)
 - Inclusion Criteria
 - Age greater than 18
 - Able to speak English
 - Exclusion Criteria
 - Diagnosis of dementia or adjustment disorder with no history of SMI
 - Inability to provide informed consent

(Chafetz, White, Collins-Bride, Nickens, & Cooper, 2006)

Methods

- Randomized trial included 2 study groups: usual care and wellness training after release from RTP
- Interviews at baseline, 6, 12, and 18 months
- Location of subjects
 - Extensive contact lists
 - Assertive tracking for follow-up interviews
 - Billing Information Systems Data to track service utilization

Analysis of Recruitment and Retention Data

- Examined:
 - Characteristics of AAs and whites
 - Comparisons of eligibles who enrolled or refused to participate
 - Comparisons of sample who completed baseline only or 1-3 follow-up interviews

Results-Recruitment

- Eligible for recruitment: AAs vs. whites
 - Mean age ~ 39 (p=ns)
 - Gender (p=ns)
 - Diagnosis (p=.04)
 - RTP site (p=.02)

Results-Recruitment

■ Recruitment Rate

- Overall 70% of eligibles
(AAs 73% and whites 68%)

■ Bivariate Analyses

- Ethnicity (p=ns)
- Age (p=ns)
- Gender (p=.02)
- Diagnosis (p=.001)
- RTP site (p=ns)

■ Logistic Regression

■ Adjusted Odds Ratios

- Diagnosis (p=.001)
 - Schizophrenia 1.00
 - Bipolar disorder 2.49
 - Major depression 2.94
 - Other disorders 4.17
- Gender (p=.03)
 - Females 1.00
 - Males 1.86
- Ethnicity (p=ns)

Results-Retention

- Study sample: AAs vs. whites
 - Mean age ~ 39 (p=ns)
 - Gender (p=ns)
 - Diagnosis (p=ns)
 - RTP site (p=ns)
 - Substance abuse (p=ns)
 - Living situation prior to admission (p=ns)

Results-Retention

■ Retention Rate

- Overall 63% of those enrolled (AAs 71% and whites 59%)

■ Bivariate Analyses

- Ethnicity (p=ns)
- Age (p=ns)
- Gender (p=ns)
- Diagnosis (p=.03)
- Perceived physical condition (p=.009)

■ Logistic Regression

- Adjusted Odds Ratios
- Diagnosis (p=.04)
 - Schizophrenia 1.00
 - Bipolar disorder .39
 - Major depression .55
 - Other disorder .21
- Perceived physical condition (p=.005)
 - Neutral to dissatisfied 1.00
 - Satisfied .41
- Ethnicity (p=ns)

Summary of Findings

- In this community based sample, AAs were no different from whites in proportion who agreed to participate in the study or who stayed in the study
- Persons diagnosed with schizophrenia were less likely to agree to participate, but if enrolled more likely to remain in the study
- Women were more likely to refuse to participate, but there were no gender differences for retention
- Persons who expressed feeling neutral to dissatisfied with physical health were more likely to remain in the study