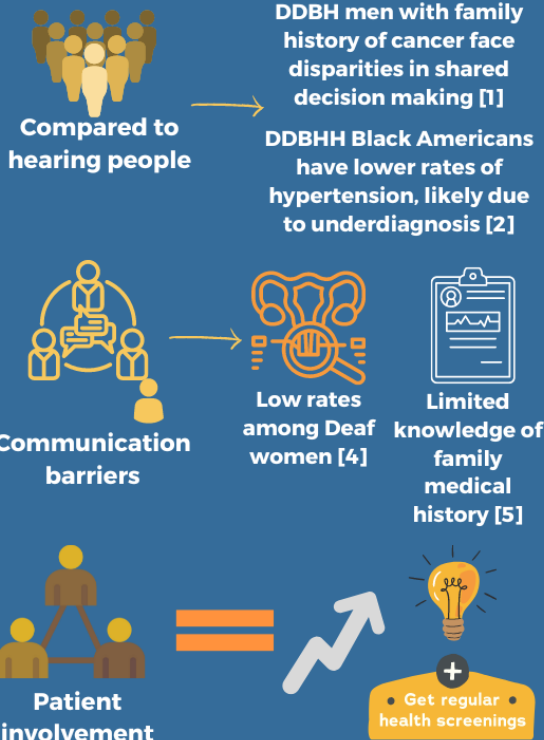


DDBHH CANCER SCREENING BARRIERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NAVIGATOR TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing (DDBHH) individuals who use American Sign Language (ASL) experience significant disparities related to cancer screening and to cancer-related health outcomes.



A needs assessment study was conducted to:

- Identify barriers to cancer screening for DDBHH adults
- Determine training resources for Community Health Navigators (CHNs)

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR DEAF HEALTH EQUITY

Poorna Kushalnagar, Ph.D., Director

The Center for Deaf Health Equity's mission is to conduct research that links accessibility to health outcomes among deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals. The center's briefs provide a snapshot of noteworthy, data-driven research findings from the Center. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

FINDINGS

- Recurring themes included systematic, attitudinal, communication, and personal-level barriers.
- Systemic barriers; difficulties navigating a complex healthcare system (e.g., misunderstanding insurance companies' role, patient portal limitations).
- Attitudinal barriers; biases faced by DDBHH individuals with other intersecting identities further highlight the challenges they experience.
- Communication barriers; barriers DDBHH individuals experienced in exchanging medical information within their own families and with healthcare professionals.

CALL TO ACTION

- Identify and fund projects to create an ethnically and racially diverse workforce of community health workers or patient navigators who are fluent in sign language.

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