Recruiting Pediatric Bariatric Patients: A Glance into Teen-Focused Community-Engaged Methods

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Background

- Most studies involving pediatric metabolic and bariatric surgery (MBS) have utilized in-clinic recruitment
- Community-engaged approaches to recruitment result in samples diverse in race, ethnicity, and healthcare accessibility
- To date, there are no studies examining teen-focused community-engaged recruitment methods for pediatric MBS patients

Methods

Recruitment

- Interested individuals were prompted to fill out an eligibility form online
- Potential participants were separated into two groups:

OCEANS change is made in waves

Group 1

OCEANS stands for Outreach, Community Engagement, Advocacy, and Non-discriminatory Support. It is a nonprofit organization for adolescents living with obesity.

OAC Obesity Action Coalition

Group 2

The Obesity Action Coalition is the largest nonprofit organization for individuals living with obesity. Their programming is primarily targeted towards adults

Data Quality

- Due to suspicious activities exhibited during data collection, a data quality rubric was created to systematically identify and remove suspicious responses
- 6 suspicious behaviors were identified from a review of the literature
- Forms were removed if they exhibited ≥ 1 behavior

Data Analysis

- A chi-square test determined if there was a difference between recruitment groups in the number of participants who were eligible, consented, and completed study requirements

Table 1: Results of Removing Suspicious Responses

Suspicious Behavior	OCEANS	Additional Recruitment Channels
Duplicate email address, differing eligibility information	0 (0%)	13 (15.29%)
Duplicate email addresses, same eligibility information	1 (5%)	3 (3.53%)
Survey completion >5 minutes	0 (0%)	11 (12.94%)
Listing a complication not expected from MBS	0 (0%)	2 (2.35%)
Listing a Google Voice number	0 (0%)	1 (1.18%)
Requesting teleconferencing software call for consent	0 (0%)	3 (3.53%)
Total forms removed	**1 (5%)**	**33 (35.29%)**

Table 1: Chi-square results for differences between recruitment groups

Recruitment Stage Completed	OCEANS (n=19)	Additional Recruitment Channels (n=52)	X^2	P-value
Screened, not eligible	0 (0%)	34 (65%)	34.726	<0.001
Eligible, not consented	11 (58%)	14 (27%)		
Consented, not completed	2 (11%)	0 (n=0%)		
Completed	6 (32%)	4 (8%)		

Results

- **Group 1: OCEANS**
  - 20 potential participants reached
  - Average time to fill out form: *M(SD)*= 61(25) seconds
  - Eligible: n=19/19, 100%
  - Consented: n=8/19, 42%
  - Completed: n=6/19, 32%
- **Group 2: Additional Recruitment Channels**
  - 85 potential participants reached
  - Average time to fill out form: *M(SD)*= 178(192) seconds
  - Eligible: n=18/52, 35%
  - Consented: n=4/52, 8%
  - Completed: n=4/52, 8%
- **Chi-square analysis**
  - Participants from OCEANS were more likely to be eligible and complete study requirements (p<0.001), but were not more likely to consent.

Conclusion

- A teen-focused community-engaged approach to recruitment of pediatric MBS patients resulted in
  - A low number of suspicious responses
  - Higher percentage of eligible participants and study completers
- Although social media has an extended reach, it also has the potential to produce a high number of suspicious responses
  - Future work should examine systematic and rigorous methods of identifying and removing suspicious responses to ensure data quality
- Differing levels of community-engagement may result in more successful recruitment efforts
  - This study utilized a teen-focused community-engaged program to inform potential participants of a research opportunity
  - Collaborating or co-leading research with community members may be more effective in identifying eligible individuals who are willing to consent and complete study requirements