



# Diabetes Awareness in Petit-Goâve, Haiti

Rebecca Barber<sup>1</sup>, Joseph Cioffi<sup>1</sup>, Lyolya Hovhannisyan<sup>1</sup>, David Cutler MD<sup>2</sup>, Tania Desgrottes MD<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UCLA-HGD Research Initiative, <sup>2</sup>UCLA Department of Family Medicine

<sup>3</sup>Henri Gerard Desgranges Health Center, Petit Goave, Haiti



## Background

- Diabetes is a major global public health problem affecting 347 million people worldwide, and 80% of diabetes-related deaths occur in low and middle-income countries
- Diabetes is a chronic non-communicable metabolic disease characterized by persistently high blood glucose levels due to insulin deficiency
- Limited data exists on diabetes awareness in Haiti
- Haiti is the poorest country in Latin America
- Education is a strong determinant of health, and Haiti's literacy rate is 48.7%
- The average life expectancy in Haiti is 62.06 years, compared to 78.64 years in the United States
- Our objective was to evaluate diabetes awareness and knowledge in Petit-Goâve, a rural Haitian community

## Methods

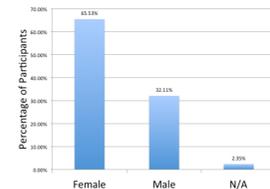
- Recruitment by community health workers via community engagement meetings and radio broadcast
- Open enrollment of consecutive patients seeking treatment for diabetes, those at high-risk or seeking information about diabetes
- The setting was a private, non-profit primary care clinic in Petit-Goâve, Haiti
- Informed consent per UCLA IRB-approved protocol with local translators speaking Creole and French
- Diabetes survey modeled after previously published rural awareness study in Chennai, India
- Sample size: n=383

### Diabetes awareness survey

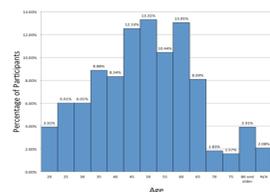
- Age \_\_\_\_\_
- Gender  Male  Female
- How many years of schooling have you had? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you know what diabetes is?  Yes  No
- Have you been diagnosed with diabetes?  Yes  No
- Do you think, in general, more and more people are getting affected with diabetes nowadays?  Yes  No  I don't know
- What do you think are the factors that contribute to diabetes?  Obesity  Decreased physical activity  Mental Stress  Family history of diabetes  Consuming more sweets  Others \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you know that diabetes can cause complications in other organs?  Yes  No  I don't know
- If yes, what are they? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Can diabetes be prevented?  Yes  No  I don't know
- Where do you get information on diabetes?  Family  Friends  Media (TV, radio, internet)  Healthcare providers  Government or other public agency sources  Others \_\_\_\_\_

## Results

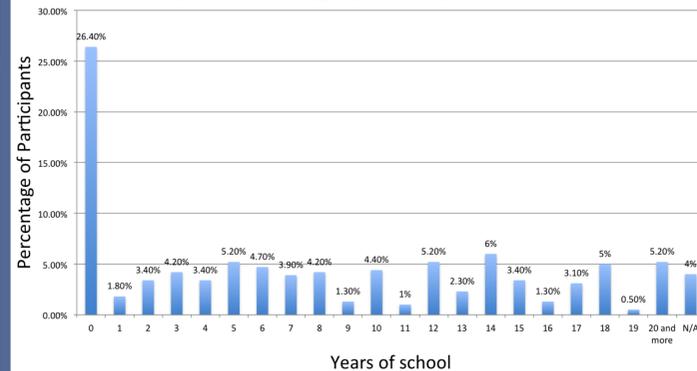
### Participant demographics: gender



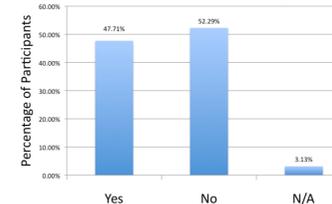
### Participant demographics: age



### Participant demographics: years of school



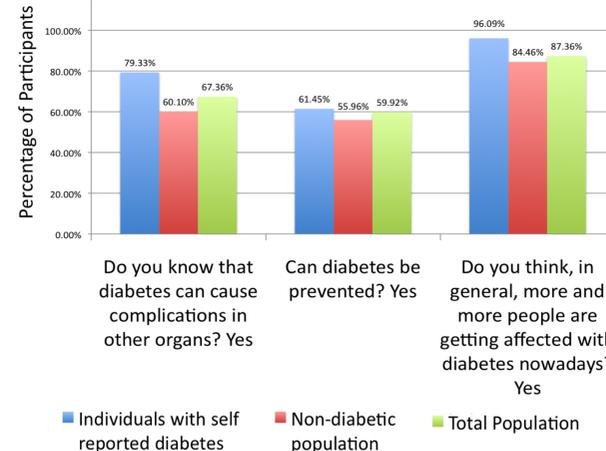
### Self-reported diabetes prevalence



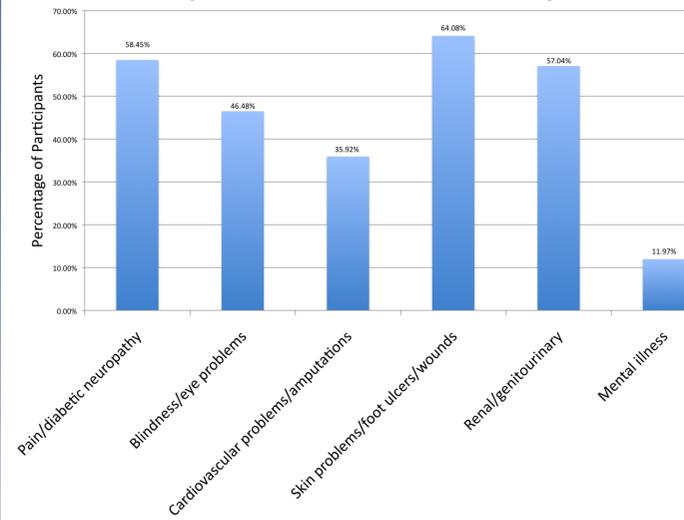
### Factors contributing to diabetes

Causes n(%)	Individuals with self reported diabetes (n=179)	Non-diabetic population (n=193)	Total population (n=383)
Mental Stress	124 (69.3)	126 (65.3)	250 (65.3)
Family History	67 (37.4)	79 (40.9)	146 (38.1)
Consuming More Sweets	56 (31.3)	83 (43.0)	139 (36.3)
Obesity	44 (24.6)	53 (27.5)	97 (25.3)
Decreased physical activity	36 (20.1)	51 (26.4)	87 (22.7)

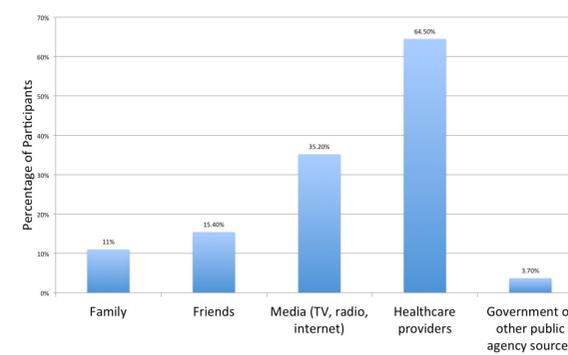
### Knowledge about diabetes in subjects with and without self-reported diabetes



### Stated complications that are caused by diabetes



### Sources of diabetes information



## Discussion

- Self-reported diabetics showed a greater awareness of diabetes in comparison to non-diabetics
- Mental stress was chosen as the most common cause of diabetes, which can possibly be related to Vodou beliefs and traditions
- 56.9% of the total participants knew that diabetes could be prevented
- The largest difference between self reported diabetics and non-diabetics was whether diabetes caused complications in other organs
- Less than 60% of participants stated diabetes related complications
- Participants revealed a large void of diabetes information from public agencies (3.7%) while the greatest reliance was on healthcare providers (64.5%)
- Results highlight the need for increased diabetes knowledge and education

## Future Directions

- Survey urban and rural communities to evaluate differences in diabetes awareness
- Evaluate the level of diabetes awareness in healthcare providers
- Use results to tailor diabetes education programs by addressing common concerns
- Target the media and healthcare providers to increase diabetes education and awareness

## Acknowledgements

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