

Camden Community Collaborative Practice Databank & Patient Outcomes Study: Is Care As Good in a Student-Run Free Clinic?

Introduction:

The Camden Community Collaborative Practice (CCCP) is a student-run primary care clinic that serves uninsured residents of Camden, NJ, one of the poorest cities in the nation. The CCCP is also the primary site for the Ambulatory Clerkship at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Now in its second year, the clinic has a patient panel of over 400 and continues to expand.

The body of literature on student-run free clinics is small; some have reported on the delivery of services but only one has reported outcomes. By examining our outcomes, we gain important information about whether the services rendered at CCCP lead to measurable positive health benefits downstream that are equivalent to national averages for primary care offices serving the insured.

Study Aims:

- To describe the patient population seen in the CCCP clinic during its first year, September 2012 – May 2013
- To compare specific measures of health outcomes to national averages as reported by the CDC, including diabetes control, lipid control, and age-appropriate cancer screening

Methods:

- Data extracted from the EPIC EMR and CCCP paper chart including:
 - Demographic Information
 - Clinic Visit Information (# Visits, # Cancellations, # No-Shows)
 - Diagnoses, Smoking Status, Lipid Control, Diabetes Control, Age-Appropriate Cancer Screening, # ER Visits, # Admissions
- Sample:
 - Inclusion criteria: Patients seen in the CCCP between September 2012 and May 2013 who had at least one follow-up contact
 - N = 108
 - 40 Males, 68 Females
 - 59 Hispanic, 31 African American, 9 Non-Hispanic Caucasian, 7 Asian, 2 Unknown
- Data analyzed with SPSS and Excel

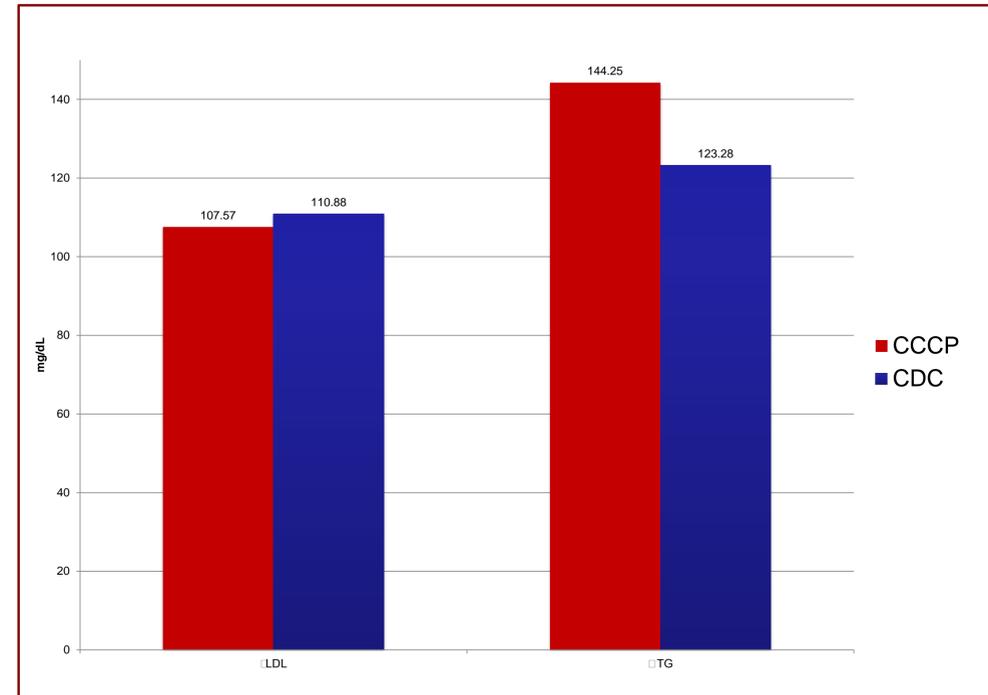


Figure 1: Comparison of Average LDL and Triglyceride Levels

Results:

Data for lipids and diabetes control have been examined thus far; a one-tailed T-test was used.

- Mean LDL for the CCCP study group was 108 mg/dL; mean LDL reported by the CDC in the 2010 NHANES Report was 111 ($p=0.24$).
- Mean triglyceride level for the CCCP was 144 mg/dL; mean triglyceride level in the 2010 NHANES was 123 ($p=0.066$).
- Mean HbA1c for the CCCP was 6.9%; mean HbA1c in the 2010 NHANES was 7.2% ($p=0.27$).

Discussion:

Average values for LDL, triglycerides, and HbA1c showed no significant difference between the CCCP study population and CDC-reported national averages, with a trend toward CCCP outcomes for LDL and HgbA1c being superior. For these measures, our data suggests that patients seen in the CCCP student-run free clinic are receiving care as good as that provided by primary care offices serving insured and paying patients.

Future Directions:

Next steps in our project include examining the collected data for smoking, cancer screening, ER visits, and hospital admissions. In addition, as our clinic population grows, we will have the opportunity to expand our data to include a larger number of patients and longer-term follow-up. The Affordable Care Act has increased the number of insured, but there are many in our community (such as undocumented individuals) who do not qualify and the demand for our services continues to increase. We must ensure that our services are equal to or better than those provided to the insured.

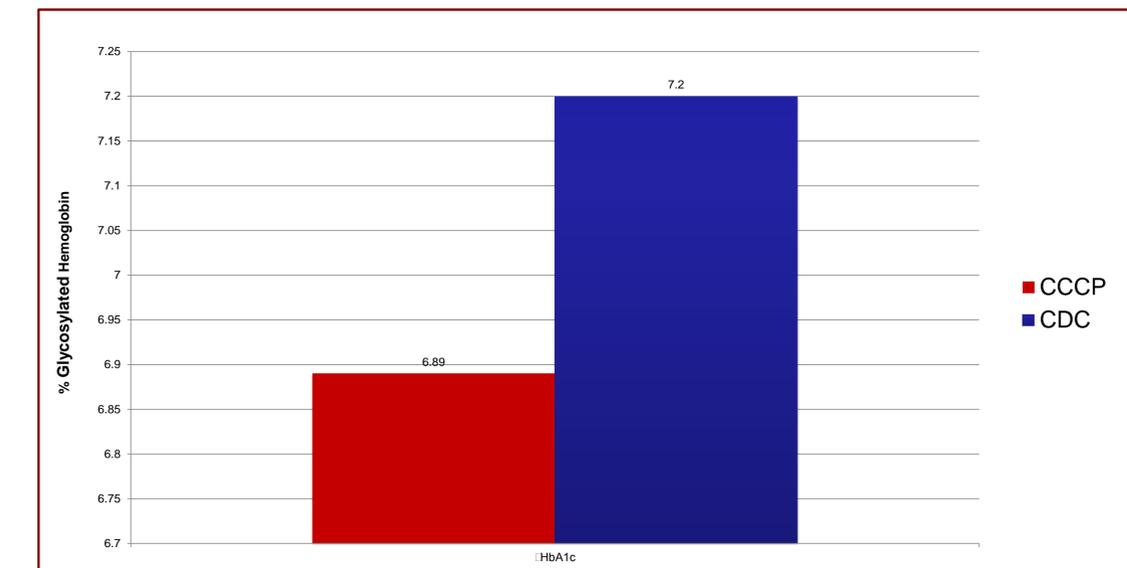


Figure 2: Comparison of Average Hemoglobin A1c Levels