**NON-RESEARCH - Project/Program Description, Policy**

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| **Summary, Case Study, Practice Project (that was not**  **research-associated)** |
| **Rates of Molecular Testing for Colorectal Cancer Patients Demonstrate Disparities in Cancer Management**  Authors and Affiliation: Benjamin Bienvenue; Myriah Legaux; Terry Birkhoff |
| Background:  Since 2018, updated guidelines for cancer prevention recommends that individuals under 50 years of age with newly diagnosed colorectal cancer (CRC) receive molecular testing for Lynch Syndrome, which predisposes to the development of other cancers. This project aims to investigate the rate of molecular testing for individuals in Louisiana. The objective is to highlight disparities in testing to direct future efforts by cancer outreach efforts in LA.  Description: Data from Taking Aim at Cancer(TACL)’s partner network was collected throughout the state to evaluate disparities between urban vs rural populations, racial groups, and Medicaid vs other insurance holders. |
| Accomplishments: The data was presented to partnering organizations at a stakeholder meeting where leadership would appreciate the findings and discuss next steps in addressing issues. This project served as a foundational steppingstone that would direct future data collection and interventions. |
| Discussion: The results of this report suggests that healthcare disparities have made an impact on the rates of testing for LS for CRC patients. We see this is true particularly for Medicaid and rural populations as well as racial minorities.  Future Steps: This study was important in helping TACL’s partners obtain feedback on the current state of molecular testing for CRC patients. There were some challenges in data collection and analysis. Nonetheless, the project served an important foundational role in future efforts of tracking molecular testing rates throughout Louisiana. Future work should be focused on addressing the healthcare disparities in molecular testing and on increasing rates of reporting from partnering organizations. |