

# Implementation and Preliminary Evaluation of a Community-Focused Patient Navigation Program to Address Barriers to Care for Underserved Cancer Patients



Ver Hoeve, E.S., High, B., Hernandez, M., Armin, J., Ali-Akbarian, L., Hamann, H.A., and Calhoun, E.

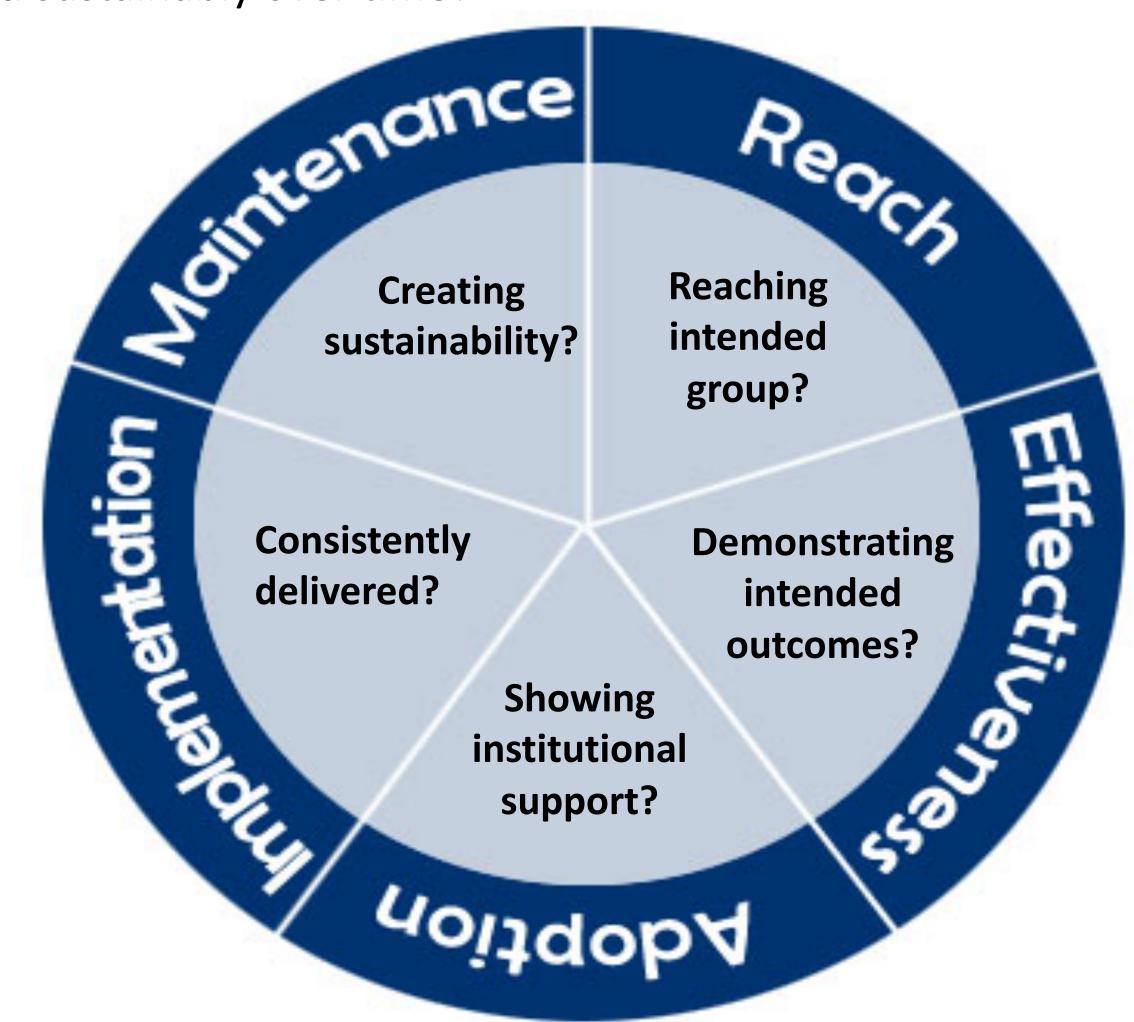
## Background

- ❖ Patient Navigation is an evidence-based intervention shown to reduce barriers to care and enhance care coordination for underserved cancer patients.
- Success depends on navigators' cultural, linguistic, and community knowledge as well as on the receptivity of the clinical care setting and communication with the clinical teams.
- Qualitative and quantitative needs assessments at University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC) and El Rio Health Care Center confirmed the need for bilingual (English + Spanish) community navigators

# **RE-AIM Framework & Intervention Design**

#### **RE-AIM:**

- ❖ We use the **RE-AIM framework** to assess if implementation of a community-focused patient navigation program at our NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center is:
  - 1) Reaching underrepresented cancer patients?
  - Effective at reducing barriers to care? At improving patient-reported outcomes?
  - Adopted among cancer center clinical teams?
  - Implemented in a consistent manner?
  - 5) Maintained sustainably over time?



#### **Intervention Design:**

- Patients are clinically referred (at any point in cancer continuum) to our 3-month Patient Navigation Intervention
- A Participants complete pre-post surveys and 'Barriers to Care' assessments; Navigators work with participants to resolve reported barriers
- ❖ 176 cancer patients were enrolled in the first twenty months (6/18/18 Present)

## Demographics

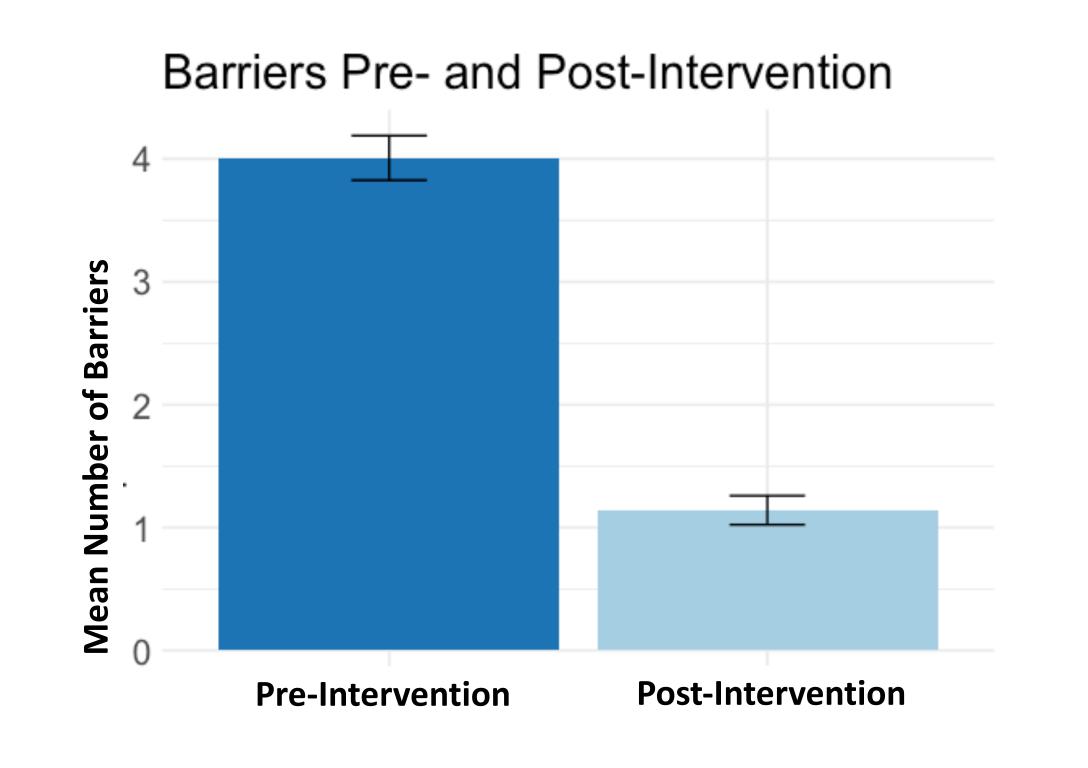
Demographics	Participants (n)	Percent Total (%)
Gender		
Male	96	54.5%
Female	80	45.5%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	113	63.1%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	63	35.8%
Primary Language		
English	95	53.1%
Spanish	81	45.3%
Household Income		
< \$34,999	103	58.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9	.05%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	4	.02%
> \$75,000	1	.01%
Not reported	59	33.5%
Insurance Type		
Private	29	16.5%
Medicare	50	28.4%
Medicaid (AHCCCS)	70	39.8%
Emergency AHCCCS	27	15.3%
Recent Housing Insecurity?		
Yes	71	40.3%
No	105	59.7%

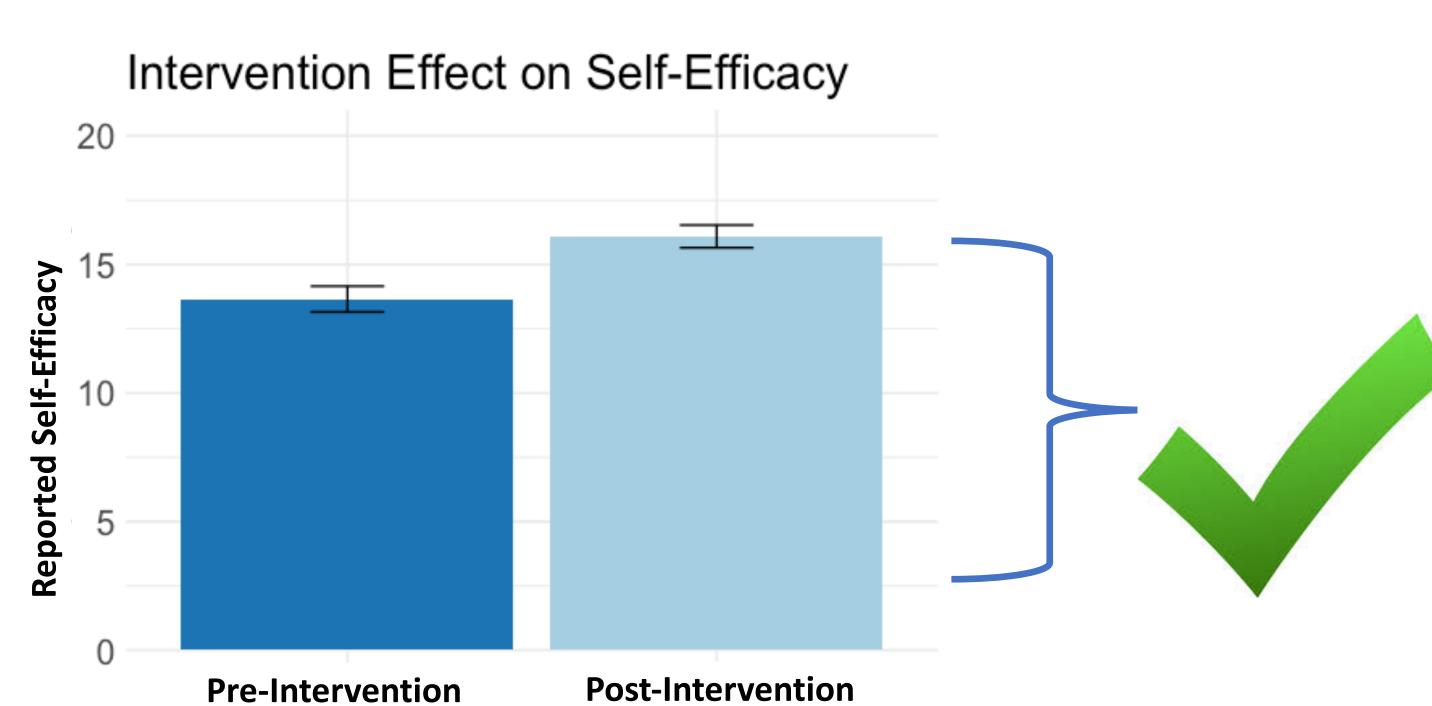
## Preliminary Results within RE-AIM Framework

## I. Reaching underrepresented cancer patients?

- > Participants (n=176) are primarily Hispanic/Latino (63.1%); Spanish is the primary language for nearly half of participants (45.3%)
- ➤ Most participants report household incomes of less than \$35,000 (58.5%)
- Primary Insurance type was Medicaid (39.8%)
- > Substantial (40.3%) history of housing insecurity

#### II. Effective at reducing barriers to cancer care and improving patient-reported outcomes?





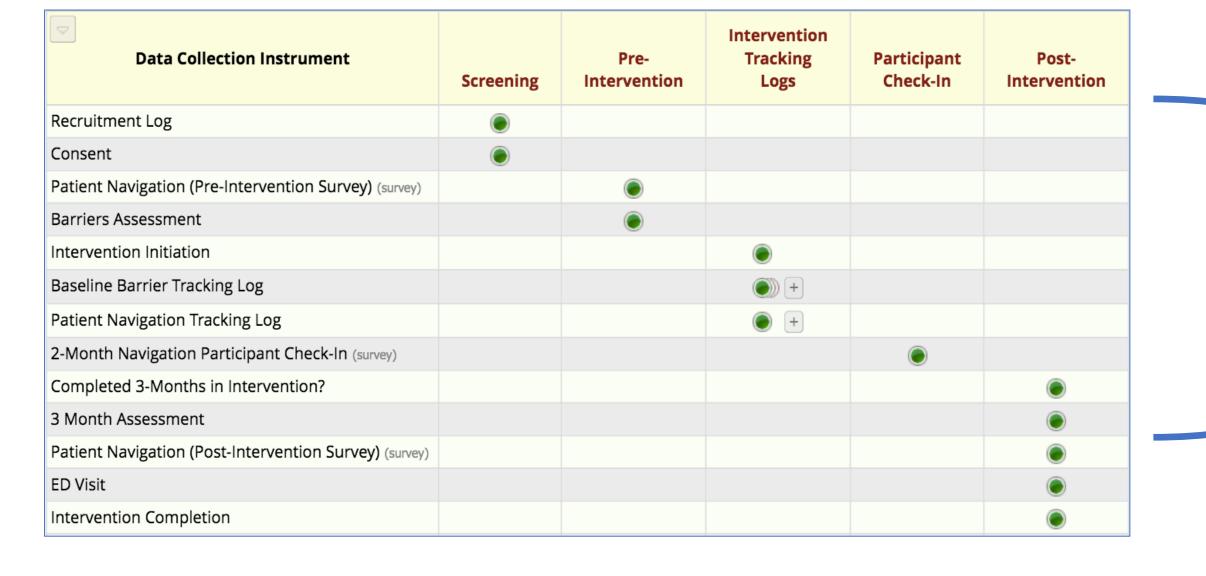
- > At Intervention completion, an independent evaluator reviewed all documented encounters from Patient Navigators and scored the resolution of each reported barrier as 'Attempted' or 'Addressed'
- > On average, 73.8% of each participant's (n=127) pre-intervention barriers were addressed
- $\triangleright$  Of those that have completed the intervention (n=127), significant reduction in # barriers, t(126)=21.1, p < .000
- > PROMIS General Self-Efficacy-4a Scale; ranges 4 20, participants (n=96) reported a significantly higher level of selfefficacy following the intervention ( $\underline{t}(95) = -4.7$ , p < .000)

#### III. Adopted among cancer center clinical teams?

- > To date, 208 referrals from Cancer Center clinical teams
- $\triangleright$  Majority of referrals have come from social work team (47.1%)
- > Majority have been referred at time of diagnosis or during early treatment phase (92.0%)
- Current effort to increase utilization among non-social work groups

### IV. Implemented in a consistent manner?

- Community navigators use REDCap for consistent documentation
- Community navigators use the Electronic Medical Record system of the Cancer Center to communicate with clinical teams
- Use of standardized assessments
- Weekly case consultation with clinical team leaders



#### V. Maintained sustainably over time?

- Using data to make "business case" to Cancer Center administration
- ➤ Goal: Transfer 1.0 FTE coverage from grant funds to clinical services line by mid-2020
- > Leveraging El Rio Health partnership in complementary effort to enhance overall patient referral and coordination system at UACC
- > Biggest challenge: Cancer Center administrative changes

## DISCUSSION

Applying RE-AIM to a Community Patient Navigation Intervention, preliminary evidence suggests that the intervention is...

- ✓ Reaching a population of underrepresented cancer patients
- ✓ Effective at reducing barriers to cancer care and improving patient-reported outcomes such as self-efficacy
- ✓ Adopted and utilized by clinical teams, primarily social work at diagnosis/treatment
- ✓ Implemented in a consistent and well-documented manner
- ✓ Maintained via grant support, for now, and continuing to explore options for long-term sustainability