Developing the Florida Academic Cancer Center Alliance Health Disparities Common Measure: The Florida Health and Ancestry Survey

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Abstract

Purpose: Our specific aim was to develop and assess the consensus-based validity of common measures for understanding health behaviors and ancestry in Florida’s population subgroups and establish the feasibility of wide-scale implementation of the measures and biospecimen collection within three cancer centers’ catchment areas.

Methods: Using the National Cancer Institute’s Grid-Enabled Measures web-based platform and an iterative process, we developed the Florida Health and Ancestry Survey (FHAS). We then used three sampling approaches to implement the FHAS: community-engaged, panel respondent, and random digit dialing (RDD). We asked a subset of participants to provide a saliva sample for future validation of subjective ancestry report with DNA-derived ancestry markers.

Results: This process supported the FHAS content validity. As an indicator of feasibility, the goals for completed surveys by sampling approach were met for two of the three cancer centers, yielding a total of 1438 completed surveys. The RDD

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approach produced the most representative sample. The panel sampling approach produced inadequate representation of older individuals and males. The community-engaged approach along with social media recruitment produced extreme under-representation only for males. Two of the cancer centers mailed biospecimen kits, whereas one did not due to resource constraints. On average, the community engaged approach was more productive in obtaining returned biospecimen samples (80%) than the panel approach (48%).

**Conclusions:** We successfully developed and implemented the FHAS as a common measure to show its feasibility for understanding cancer health disparities in Florida. We identified sampling approach successes and challenges to obtaining biospecimens for ancestry research.

**Keywords**
cancer health disparities, health equity, community engaged research, cancer center catchment areas, cancer prevention, cancer risk behaviors, common measure, cancer control, feasibility

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Comprehensive understanding of cancer health disparities is hindered by inadequate understanding of heterogeneity in risk factors, prevention behaviors, clinical trials, and access to care among diverse population subgroups within Florida. Ranked as the state with the second highest number of cancer cases as well as cancer incidence and mortality, Florida has notable cancer health disparities that disproportionately burden historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups as well as underserved urban and rural residents. Current surveillance data, however, fail to capture and summarize the scope and mechanisms of cancer disparities in unique populations and local communities served by Florida’s three academic cancer centers that comprise the Florida Academic Cancer Center Alliance (FACCA). Therefore, with FACCA support, the Moffitt Cancer Center (MCC), University of Florida Health Cancer Center (UFHCC), and University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMSCC) initiated efforts to improve the data related to cancer health disparities throughout Florida. The purpose of this article is to describe our approach to conducting a collaborative, evidence-based project for advancing cancer health equity research in Florida, a large, geographically diverse state with significant multiculturalism and a high cancer burden.

Academic cancer centers in Florida are well positioned to characterize the diversity of catchment area participants and to investigate the varied mechanisms that produce disparities in cancer incidence and outcomes. Florida has a uniquely diverse ancestry population. More than 42% of this population is Black (16.9%) or Hispanic (26%), approximately 20% is foreign-born, and over 2 million (approximately 10%) of Floridians reside in rural areas. Florida’s diverse population is thought to reflect the future demographics of the nation. The areas covered by the three cancer centers include 42 of the 67 counties in Florida. The UFHCC catchment area includes Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Wakulla counties in North Central Florida. UMSCC catchment area includes Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Monroe counties in South Florida and MCC catchment area includes Lake, Charlotte, Sumter, Sarasota, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Lee, Citrus, Manatee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Hardee, Polk, and Desoto counties in West Central Florida.

To facilitate better data sharing and comparison, our collaborative efforts built on National Cancer Institute (NCI) initiatives by developing and testing a core set of self-report measures. The use of the core set of self-report measures would produce data that represent the distinct populations within Florida, which is essential to directing research, clinical practice, programmatic, and policy priorities of each academic cancer center. Furthermore, we can use the common measures to build a more comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms at play in cancer health disparities across Florida and leverage our joint resources to strategize for statewide cancer control. Simultaneously, our approach also allowed each cancer center to add items to accommodate the unique needs of each cancer center’s catchment area and/or the focus of each center’s cancer control efforts, making this model of academic cancer center collaboration possible in other diverse states with high cancer burden. The specific aim of the project presented here was to develop and assess the consensus-based validity of common measures for understanding health behaviors and ancestry in Florida’s population subgroups and establish the feasibility of wide-scale implementation of the measures and biospecimen collection within each catchment area relevant to the FACCA.

**Methods**
The project team achieved the aim through an iterative process based on cancer literature review, stakeholder engagement, consensus building, and implementation of a variety of
community outreach approaches as described in the following sections. The desired outcomes were: (1) a content-valid common set of measures to characterize the cancer risk behaviors of individuals living in the academic cancer centers’ catchment areas, (2) defined sampling frameworks for reaching individuals, (3) feasibility indicators of the measure using the sampling frameworks; (4) feasibility indicators of saliva sample collection from a subsample for genetic ancestry characterization, and (5) feasibility of validating subjective ancestry report with DNA-derived ancestry markers. The work reported here focuses on the outcomes 1-4. The findings for outcome 5 and survey results for outcome 3 will be reported elsewhere.

**Consensus Building Through GEM**

To better characterize the cancer risk behaviors of individuals living in the catchment area of each academic cancer center, we needed a set of measures to better detail the heterogeneity among broad subgroups of interest. Informed by Odedina et al.’s processes, the project team, the FACCA Work Group (Work Group; Table 1), reviewed key publications to understand the National Cancer Institute’s Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM) web-based platform. The Work Group achieved consensus using the GEM platform for the development of the common measure and to make decisions through a voting process that included Work Group members and community members. For this project, consensus was defined as the extent to which members of the Work Group and the Principal Investigators agreed with each other on the appropriateness of the data collection tools and procedures. The items that were common to the three cancer centers were intended to serve each cancer center and provide aggregate data for assessing cancer risk behaviors of the general population in Florida.

The GEM platform is a dynamic, web-based collaborative tool that can be used to gain consensus on the use of common measures for prospective research. Stakeholders are enabled to evaluate measures using collaborative workspaces. GEM is available publicly and can be used by invitation (see: https://www.gem-measures.org/Public/Home.aspx). The goal is to achieve harmonized data that can be shared and analyzed. To identify commonalities in survey items and item format, the Workgroup created a construct table from the individual survey tools provided by each cancer center and GEM. Comparing the survey questions and GEM items, many questions were similar but had different format (ie, age in years vs date of birth). Workgroup members set up a private GEM Workspace and uploaded the survey items from the construct table. We invited workgroup members, members of the three cancer centers’ Cancer Population Science (CPS) research programs, and recruited community members to vote on the inclusion and preferred format for each item. Faculty, team members and community advocates recruited through word of mouth participated in the voting. Each site was responsible for selecting 10 participants to complete the survey.

**FACCA Common Survey Instrument**

The common survey tool namely the behavioral core measures was built on the set of previously standardized measures from the NCI-designated cancer centers who received supplements to better understand their respective catchment areas, an increasing focus of attention in the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) As indicated in Table 2, the survey was created using items from existing validated instruments and included participant demographics, information seeking, health information access, nutrition, cancer screening, cancer beliefs, and healthcare access, among others. To collect ancestry data elements, the Workgroup included tailored self-reported measures of race, ethnicity, and country of origin, in addition to parent and grandparent countries of origin. We named the instrument with the aggregated validated items the Florida Health and Ancestry Survey (FHAS).

Each Florida academic cancer center planned to recruit a sample of 300 respondents using either random digit dialing (RDD) (probability-based sampling) or a respondent panel purchased from a panel provider (population-based sampling). Each cancer also planned to recruit an additional 100 participants using a community-engaged approach (convenience sample). Each cancer center proceeded with the sampling approach feasible locally.

| Table 1. FACCA work group and investigators. |
|---------------------------------------------|
| **University of Florida Health Cancer Center** | **Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center** | **University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center** |
| Diana J. Wilkie, MPI | Susan Vadaparampil, MPI | Erin Kobetz, MPI |
| Folakemi G. Odedina, Co-PI | Clement K. Gwede, Co-PI | Zinzi Bailey, Co-PI |
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| Elizabeth Shenkman, other | Jennifer Garcia, other |  |
| Brenda W. Dyal, other | Alina Hoehn, other |  |
| Keasha Powell-Roach, other | Yunqi Liao, other |  |
Since the data collection occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UFHCC recruitment activity was conducted online via social media, including visibility on the UF Health research studies and clinical trials webpage and flyers emailed to extension agents and other community members. The UFHCC recruitment focused on the UFHCC’s 23-county catchment area, interested individuals called or emailed the study coordinator, who screened for eligibility and scheduled a time for a research assistant to conduct the survey via phone. The community-engaged data collection began on September 3, 2020 and was completed on December 20, 2020. The UF Survey Research Center at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) purchased a panel representative of the gender, age, race, and ethnicity of the residents in the 23-county catchment area (Table 3). BEBR collected the UFHCC data between September 21, 2020 and October 9, 2020.

University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center conducted a hybrid phone sampling frame in its 4 county catchment area (Table 3). Its approach combined random digit dialing (RDD), targeted landline, and out-of-area consumer cell sampling to construct a representative sample, while oversampling certain hard to reach populations, such as Native American and Black residents, as well as those residing in rural areas. As of November 2019, a sample was obtained

### Table 2. Constructs and description of measures with source.

| Constructs             | Description of Measure Items                                                                 | Source                                                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Demographics           | Age, county location, zip code, gender, birth/residency in US, marital status, home ownership, household details, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, employment status, household income | CAPTC-AC3 behavioral & epidemiological Measures[^7]                     |
|                        | One item on participants’ current zip code, with numerical response [CAP3] (adapted from BRFSS 2011) | One item on participants’ length of time residing within the United States with response in years [CAP3] (adapted from CAP3) |
|                        | One item on participants’ annual household income, with 8 responses ranging from less than $10,000 to $75,000+ [CAP3] (adapted from BRFSS 2011) |                                                                 |
| Health status          | Overall health status, health conditions diagnosed, health care coverage, pain                  | CAPTC-AC3 behavioral & epidemiological measures[^7]                     |
| Healthcare access      | Health care coverage, access to care (Medical), inability to access care                        | CaPTC-AC3 health care access[^7]                                       |
| Info seeking and health info access | Health literacy, confidence obtaining health information/ advice, platforms accessed for health/medical topics | eHealth literacy Scale[^12], eHEALS[^4], CaPTC-AC3 health literacy Scale[^1] |
| Cancer                 | Colorectal screening, prostate cancer, lung cancer, breast screening, cervical cancer, HPV test, Liver disease, cancer religiosity, shared decision making, informed decision making, thoughts about cancer, perceived risk of cancer | Prostate[^7] and lung cancer screening[^18] and data from national cancer Institute’s (NCI) health information national trends survey (HINTS): HINTS 5 cycle 1 (2017), HINTS 4 cycle 4 (2014), and HINTS 4 cycle 2 (2012) datasets[^6] |
| Health behaviors       | Anthropometrics (Height/Weight), cigarette usage, e-cigarette usage, tobacco product usage, marijuana use, smoking cessation, second hand exposure, nutrition, physical activity, aspirin intake, medication use, Sun exposure, SPF usage/sun protection, tanning bed usage, alcohol consumption, HPV vaccine, drug/alcohol abuse | Smoking marijuana habits (adapted from BRFSS[^14] and NHANES[^15] measures and was further refined by the CPS members |
| Mental health/ wellbeing | Social cohesion & trust, discrimination, distress/ depression, anxiety, fatigue, loneliness/isolation, acculturation, treatment received by others/Social interactions | Short version of david Williams’ perceived discrimination questionnaire[^21] |
| Cancer history         | Family cancer, personal history                                                                  | CaPTC-AC3 Family history of cancer                                      |
| Palliative care        | Confidence obtaining health information/advice, platforms accessed for information, participant’s knowledge about topic, does participant have advance directive or healthcare surrogate | Investigator derived, format adapted from palliative care & supportive oncology workgroup survey and eHEALS |
| COVID-19               | Confidence obtaining health information/advice, platforms accessed for information, knowledge about topic | Investigator derived, format adapted from palliative care & supportive oncology workgroup survey and eHEALS |
| Rural identity         | How much or little participant identifies as being rural                                          | Rural identity scale[^22]                                               |

[^7]: CAPTC-AC3 behavioral & epidemiological Measures
[^12]: eHealth literacy Scale
[^4]: eHEALS
[^1]: CaPTC-AC3 health literacy Scale
[^7]: Prostate
[^18]: lung cancer screening
[^6]: national trends survey (HINTS): HINTS 5 cycle 1 (2017), HINTS 4 cycle 4 (2014), and HINTS 4 cycle 2 (2012) datasets
[^16]: NCI-designated cancer center catchment area supplements, namely the behavioral core measures
[^19]: Smoking marijuana habits (adapted from BRFSS and NHANES measures and was further refined by the CPS members
[^14]: CAPTC-AC3 behavioral & epidemiological Measures
[^4]: opioid use (adapted from the screen and opioid assessment for patients with pain-revised [SOAPP® -R])
[^20]: CPS members
[^1]: Prostate
[^15]: HINTS 5 cycle 1 (2017), HINTS 4 cycle 4 (2014), and HINTS 4 cycle 2 (2012) datasets
[^21]: Short version of david Williams’ perceived discrimination questionnaire
[^22]: Rural identity scale
Table 3. Sampling Framework UF, MCC, UM catchment area population and actual achieved by sampling approach.

| Variable                        | UFHCC: North Central Florida (23 Counties) | MCC: West Central Florida (15 Counties) | UMSCCC: South Florida (4 Counties) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 | Pop<sup>23</sup> | Comm-Engaged Sample N (%) | Panel Sample | Pop<sup>24</sup> | Comm-Engaged Sample N (%) | Panel Sample | Pop<sup>24,25</sup> | Hybrid RDD + Targeted Sample N (%) (Unweighted) |
| Age mean (SD), min-max, years   | 59 (16.3), 18-85 | 35 (16.3), 18-83 | 39 (13.5), 20-64 | 35 (15.9), 18 - 98 | 6 255 | 843 | 49 (18.8), 18-92 |
| 18-24                           | 10.6% | 12 (12%) | 76 (23%) | 7.7% | 13 (33%) | 78 (31%) | 9.7% | 94 (13%) |
| 25-54                           | 33.5% | 28 (28%) | 179 (54%) | 34.6% | 22 (56%) | 136 (54%) | 50.1% | 322 (45%) |
| 55-64                           | 13.8% | 23 (23%) | 28 (<1%) | 14.3% | 4 (11%) | 17 (7%) | 16.5% | 130 (18%) |
| 65-79                           | 17.6% | 34 (34%) | 31 (<1%) | 17.8% | 0 (0%) | 19 (8%) | 17.0% | 131 (18%) |
| 80+                             | 5.3%  | 3 (3%) | 1 (<1%) | 6.3% | 0 (0%) | 3 (1%) | 6.7% | 36 (5%) |
| Gender                          |                  |                |              |                  |          |          |                 |
| Female                          | 50.9% | 79 (80%) | 200 (61%) | 51.4% | 30 (77%) | 156 (62%) | 51.4% | 396 (55%) |
| Male                            | 49.1% | 19 (19%) | 128 (39%) | 48.6% | 9 (23%) | 90 (36%) | 48.6% | 315 (44%) |
| Transgender                     | a     | 1 (1%) | 1 (<1%) | a | 0 (0%) | 3 (1%) | a | 1 (.14%) |
| Non-binary                      | a     | a | a | a | a | a | a | 2 (28%) |
| Race                            |                  |                |              |                  |          |          |                 |
| Non-Hispanic White              | 70.4% | 80 (80%) | 247 (75%) | 66.7% | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 29.9% | 227 (31%) |
| Non-Hispanic Black              | 16.8% | 12 (12%) | 51 (15%) | 11.1% | 9 (23%) | 115 (45%) | 19.9% | 119 (17%) |
| Hispanic                        | 10.1% | 5 (5%) | 63 (19%) | 19.2% | 30 (77%) | 92 (36%) | 45.9% | 318 (45%) |
| Asian                           | .02%  | 2 (2%) | 10 (3%) | 2.5% | 0 (0%) | 1 (<1%) | 2.5% | 7 (1%) |
| American indian/Alaskan native/ | .5%   | 1 (1%) | 6 (2%) | .3% | 0 (0%) | 15 (6%) | .002% | 3 (.4%) |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific islander, other race<sup>25</sup> |                  |                |              |                  |          |          |                 |
| Other Race<sup>25</sup>         | 2.8%  | 2.6% | 5 (13%) | 30 (12%) | 1.8% | 38 (5%) |
| Rural<sup>26</sup>              | 33.1% | 32 (32%) | 114 (34%) | 8.6% | 0 (0%) | 24 (10%) | a | a |

Abbreviation: UFHCC, University of Florida Health Cancer Center; MCC, Moffitt Cancer Center; UMSCCC, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

<sup>a</sup>No data.
from Marketing Systems Group (M-S-G) that was 80% RDD cell, 15% targeted landline, and 5% out-of-area cell. The UMSCCC data were weighted in order to produce reliable population estimates. While reflecting the selection probabilities of sampled respondents, weighting also seeks to compensate for practical limitations of sample surveys, such as differential nonresponse and under-coverage. To account for this, an iterative proportional fitting method (ie, raking) conducted utilizing the WgtAdjust procedure of SUDAAN was used to simultaneously adjust the weighted distributions along several dimensions, including gender, race, ethnicity, education, income, and county.

MCC conducted both community-based and survey panel approaches targeting counties in West Central Florida. The UF Survey Research Center at the BEBR identified residents that were: (1) ages 18+; (2) resided in Moffitt’s catchment area counties; (3) were able to speak and read English or Spanish; and (4) identified as Black or Hispanic in the survey panel database. BEBR collected the MCC data between December 17th, 2020 and March 2nd, 2021. Data collection for the community-based sample in the MCC’s 15-county catchment area began on January 25th, 2021 and was completed on June 1st, 2021. MCC utilized its network of outreach teams and community partners to share initiative information (eg, flyers, social media postings, email listservs) with community members and refer interested individuals to the study team.

**Biospecimen Collection**

In addition to each site collecting self-reported information, we also assessed the feasibility of collecting biospecimens to support genetic ancestry estimation (via genotyping) at 2 sites. The analysis will provide further insight into the biological diversity within our catchment areas based on resultant molecular profiles. A subset of participants in both the survey panel and community-based sample, was asked to indicate their willingness to provide saliva sample for this purpose. The participants from the panel and community-based sampling approaches were selected consecutively until the accrual goal, as measured by returned collection kits, was reached (UF) or the study recruitment period was completed (MCC). For participants declining this option, reasons for refusal were documented at this stage and responses were collected in an open-ended question, included within the questionnaire.

The study received IRB approval for a waiver of signed informed consent. Participants who opted in to contribute a biospecimen, were provided with an Informed Consent form that provided information about the research that included elements of consent but the participant was not required to sign or return the form. Participants also received detailed instructions and materials for conducting the saliva collection at home. Briefly, the instructions to participants provided step-by-step guidance on successful collection of a 2 mL volume saliva sample using a DNA Genotek Oragene (Ottawa, Canada) OGR-600 saliva collection kit apparatus to be returned to the study team via pre-addressed mailing materials. Upon receipt by the study team, information about the saliva specimens were logged into an Excel file or a Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) database for the study to include: (a) date, time, and volume of specimen collection; (b) linkage of the specimen to the participant’s de-identified subject identifier (SID) by recording the DNA Genotek barcode (unique to each collection kit); and (c) generating the gift card incentive for the participant. Germline DNA from saliva samples was extracted at each institution using compatible manual DNA extraction protocols or automated platforms (eg, Qiagen Autopure LS) according to the manufacturer’s protocol; resultant DNA aliquots were stored at −80°C and batched for sequencing (ie, genotyping). Germline genotyping will be completed soon to facilitate an estimation of the proportion of the genetic ancestry derived from major global populations (eg, European, Indigenous American, East Asian, and African) represented within each participant and to molecularly characterize individuals in Florida and within the catchment area. Ancestry proportions will be described using descriptive statistics and visualized using principal components analysis and t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE).9

**Results**

**Validity**

Based on the stakeholder votes on the GEM platform and a consensus conference with the multidisciplinary group of representatives from each cancer center, the final common measure included 29 main items. Several of the items included multipart questions. Every question had the response option of “Prefer not to answer.” Since the items came from previously validated measures, and the assessment focused on validity for the populations within our catchment areas, this consensus process supported the content validity of the common measure.10

To further support content validity, each cancer center modified the survey to add previously validated questions specific to the populations in their catchment area. The modifications included the addition of questions on rural identity, questions specific to Latinx populations, and questions integral to local CPS priorities. The additional questions were drawn from existing valid and reliable instruments. For example, the UFHCC survey tool contained 48 items, of which 37 had multiple parts including, the Brief Pain Inventory - Short Form (BPI-sf),11 eHealth Literacy Scale (eHEALS),12 National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS),13 BRFSS,14 NHANES,15 and COVID-19 (investigator derived, format adapted from Palliative Care & Supportive Oncology Workgroup Survey and eHEALS).12 The MCC survey tool included additional questions about COVID-19 and community engagement with MCC programs. University of
Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center removed questions about rurality, since its catchment area is almost entirely urban, and sequenced questions about US nativity with questions about country of origin and length of residence in the United States to be sensitive to rampant fears in immigrant populations about risk of deportation during the data collection period. University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center did not include any questions about COVID-19, as data collection in its catchment area began in November 2019 and additional questions would have been disruptive to overall data collection.

Feasibility of Survey Measure

The survey measure was completed in approximately 30 to 40 minutes using community-engaged approach (phone interview) or panel approach as a self-administered online survey. As noted previously, the original goal per cancer center was 300 participants from RDD or panel approaches and 100 participants from community-engaged approaches. As shown in Table 3, the UFHCC community-engaged sampling approach yielded 100 completed surveys whereas the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) conducted panel approach yielded 330 completed surveys. The UMSCCC did not complete a community-engaged sampling approach due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but using the RDD approach the BEBR yielded 716 completed surveys. The UMSCCC over sampled to achieve another institutional goal related to characterization of their catchment area, something that the UFHCC completed previously. The MCC community-engaged sampling approach yielded 39 completed surveys whereas the BEBR panel approach yielded 250 completed surveys.

Based on the proportions obtained by the various sampling approaches in Table 3, it is apparent that the RDD approach yielded sample proportions similar to the catchment area population in terms of age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The UFHCC convenience sampling and panel approaches yielded sample proportions within 5% of the population for 6 of the 14 categories for age, gender, race, ethnicity, and rural status. The UF panel approach yielded underrepresentation of individuals 55-79 years of age, men and Hispanics whereas the convenience sampling approach yielded overrepresentation of the 55-79 ages and non-Hispanic Whites and underrepresentation of males and Hispanics. The MCC convenience sampling approach yielded sample proportions within 5% of the population proportions for 3 of the 14 categories for age, gender, race, ethnicity, and rural status; the panel approach for 2 of the 14 categories. The MCC eligibility called for oversampling of Black and Hispanic populations since that was part of the eligibility criteria. Both approaches yielded overrepresentation of individuals 18-54 years of age and females, and underrepresentation of males. The MCC convenience sample yielded underrepresentation of those with rural identity and individuals 65 years of age or older. The MCC panel yielded underrepresentation in individuals 55-79 years of age.

Feasibility of Biospecimen Collection

As shown in Table 4, UFHCC intended to provide 100 participants with a saliva collection kit, 50 each for the panel respondents and community-engaged samples respectively. From the panel respondent sample, 157 responded “yes” to “willing to donate sample” and based on their response to questions about ancestry 27 of these respondents were not eligible. Of the 130 eligible panel respondents, 40 responded by return email and 29 expressed willingness to donate a biospecimen. Of the 29 saliva collection kits mailed to panel respondents, 20 competed kits were returned. Based on the low response rate from the panel respondents, the community-engaged sample was oversampled. Of the community-engaged sample 89 participants agreed to donate a saliva sample, 70 participants were mailed a DNA kit and 63 returned the completed kit.

MCC intended to provide 100 participants with a saliva collection kit, 50 each for the panel respondents and community-engaged samples respectively. From the panel respondent sample, 74 responded “yes” to “willing to donate sample.” Of the 74 eligible panel respondents, 31 disclosed a valid mailing address. Of the 31 saliva collection kits mailed to panel respondents, 9 completed kits were returned. Based on the community-engaged sample, 31 participants agreed to donate a saliva sample, 30 participants were mailed a kit and 22 returned the completed kit.

University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center did not collect biospecimens due to the timing of when this part of the work was intended to start and the onset of the COVID pandemic. University research, particularly that which was community-facing, was halted starting in mid-March 2020 through early Fall 2020. Given community concerns about COVID and exacerbated tensions around

| Table 4. Biospecimen sample kits mailed and actual received. |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                   | UFHCC N (%)     | MCCN (%)        |
| Agreed and eligible to submit saliva sample |                  |
| Community-engaged sample | 89 (89%)        | 31 (79%)        |
| Panel respondent sample | 130 (39%)       | 74 (29%)        |
| Saliva kits mailed |                  |
| Community-engaged sample | 70 (78.6%)      | 30 (96%)        |
| Panel respondent sample | 29 (22%)        | 31 (41%)        |
| Completed saliva kits received |                |
| Community-engaged sample | 63 (90%)        | 22 (73%)        |
| Panel respondent sample | 20 (69%)        | 9 (32%)         |

Abbreviation: UFHCC, University of Florida health cancer center; MCC, Moffitt comprehensive cancer center; UMSCCC, University of Miami Sylvester comprehensive cancer center. UMSCCC did not collect biospecimens due to resource constraints.
research, a strategic decision was made not to pursue this focus of inquiry.

Discussion

The three academic cancer centers in Florida worked together successfully to develop the FACCA Common Measure, the FHAS, from which aggregate data can be obtained to characterize residents’ cancer risk behaviors within the centers’ catchment areas which, combined, covers much of the population of Florida. The FHAS requires 30 to 40 minutes for completion as a phone interview or self-administered online survey, and it is valid and feasible to survey participants in each center’s catchment area. The hybrid RDD approach produced the most representative sample within UMSSC’s 4 county catchment area. UFHCC’s and MCC’s panel sampling approach, which was expected to represent their respective catchment areas, had inadequate representation of older individuals and males. With UFHCC’s larger sample and catchment area, the convenience sampling approach along with social media, email, and extension agent-facilitated recruitment produced extreme underrepresentation only for males.

Since our primary intent was to examine the yield of the survey data relative to the age, gender, and race of our catchment area, the study provides important insights to plan future studies. The RDD approach yielded the sample most representative of the catchment area, however, this is likely due to the number of participants completing the survey rather than being reflective of the sampling approach or reflective of site performance. Overall, the community-engaged sampling approach was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each cancer center planned to recruit 100 participants using the community-engaged sampling approach, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic changes were necessary. Although UFHCC did meet the targeted number of participants, changes to the community-engaged approach for UFHCC meant no face-to-face meetings and recruitment occurred online and surveys were completed over the telephone. UMSSC did not conduct the community-engaged sampling approach, and the MCC did not meet the targeted number of participants through the community-engaged sampling approach.

Our next steps are to complete data analysis within and across the cancer centers, complete the genotyping for genetic ancestry component estimations, and conduct an analysis of the congruence of the self-reported ancestry and DNA-derived ancestry markers. The findings from these analyses are expected to lead to joint publications and funding awards to support research focused on improving cancer health equity in Florida. We have already shared the FHAS with other research groups in Florida. This collaborative spirit has potential to unite researchers in Florida to discover solutions toward cancer health equity. This work is sorely needed to improve cancer outcomes for Floridians.

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