


A wide-angle photograph of a rural area in the Dominican Republic. On the left, a yellow school bus with green accents is parked on a dirt road. In the center, a simple, single-story building with a dark roof is partially obscured by several large, leafy trees and a tall palm tree. To the right, another similar building is visible. The foreground shows a dirt path and some green grass with a few chickens pecking at the ground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A small graphic element consisting of a teal and orange horizontal bar is located in the upper left quadrant of the image.

Dominican Republic Batey Health Initiative

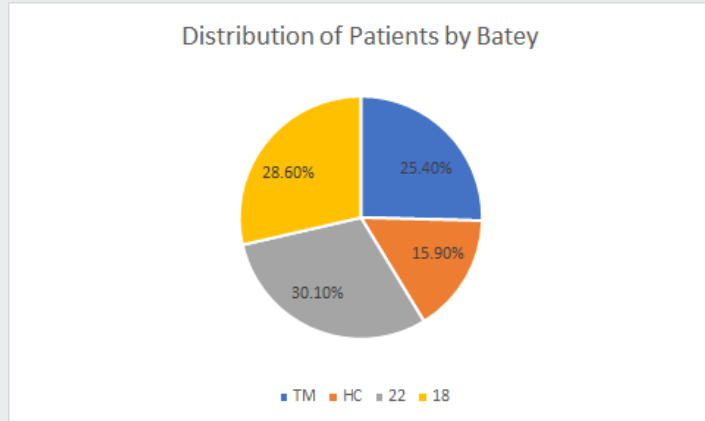
Population Health Clerkship 2019



**Photos in this presentation
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for public use.**

Demographics

- Sugarcane workers of Haitian descent/extraction and their families, living on sugar cane plantations
- Men, women, and children with a variety of health concerns.
- Citizens or noncitizens who do not have access to public health care facilities.



Demographics (n=64)			
Characteristic		n	(%)
Age			
5	≤2	1	(1.6)
-50	26	13	(20.6)
-75	51	34	(54.0)
5	>7	15	(23.8)
Sex			
ale	M	32	(50)
male	Fe	32	(50)
Language			
anish	Sp	9	(14.1)
eole	Cr	46	(71.9)
th	Bo	8	(12.5)
	Ot	1	(1.6)

Demographics Cont.

Most common health issues:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Fever and upper respiratory infection
- Stomach pain (most common complaint)
- Fungal skin infections and wounds

Issues affecting access:

Cost of transportation, lack of health insurance, lack of proper Dominican Republic documentation, resource deficit in the public health system.



Interprofessional Teams



Health Promoter

Interpreter

Dominican Doctor(s)

Medical Student(s)

Nursing Student(s)

UMass Faculty Preceptor

Interprofessional Teams



Health Advocacy

Fundación Enciende Una Luz (Light A Candle Mission, LAC) is a nonprofit organization that provides health education initiatives such as a hypertension clinic program to Bateys 18 & 22

Population: Underserved communities in Southeastern Dominican Republic

- Health Education
- Health Promotion
- Empowerment Opportunities

Success: Medication to Bateys, Health Education

Challenges: Every 3 Months, Not at every Batey, Limited HTN Medication



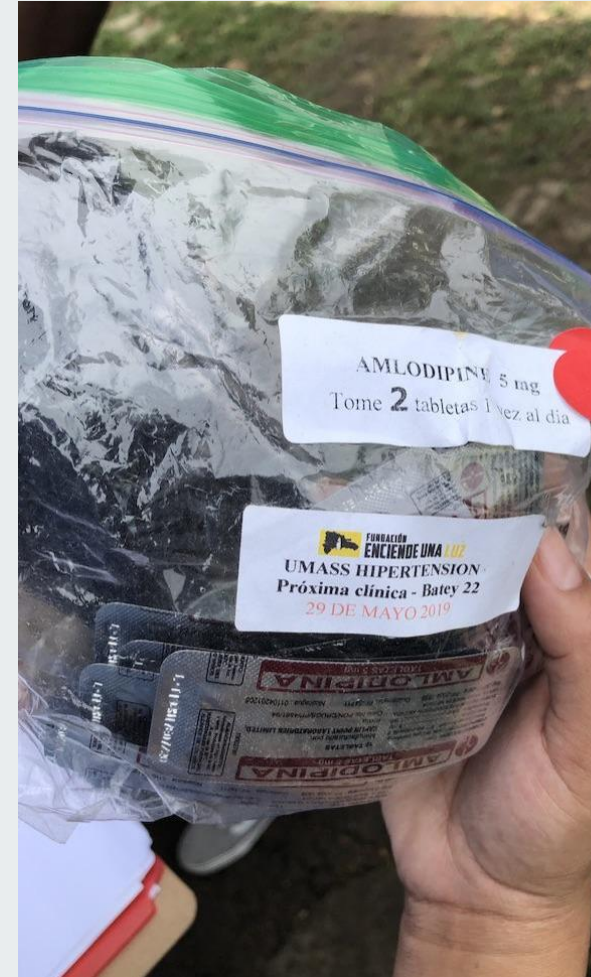
Health Advocacy

Health Promoters document blood pressure, point person for acute care, and informs community of LAC

Population: Batey 18 and 22

Success: Local support, documentation of community needs, and dependable source of health information

Challenges: Addressing limited medications and pressure from the community, Understaffed, Patient Relocation



Health Advocacy



Good Samaritan Hospital was founded on November 9, 1997 by the Missionary Baptist Church of Haiti.

Location: La Romana, Dominican Republic

- Sponsors the Health Promoters
- Ground transport
- Interpreters and staff to support DR BHI activities on the bateys

Success: Maintaining Health Promoter program and Reduced Co-Pay Evenings

Challenges: Following up with high-risk patients



Activities performed



- Collaborated with local partners in hypertension management
- Engaged with community health “promoters”
- Learned from local professionals about delivering culturally appropriate care
- Reflected on global health ethics

Activities performed

- The DRBHI is moving toward a sustainable model of population-based global health
- Our trip contributed to:
 - o Developing relationships with local stakeholders
 - o Working towards improved follow-up care for Batey residents

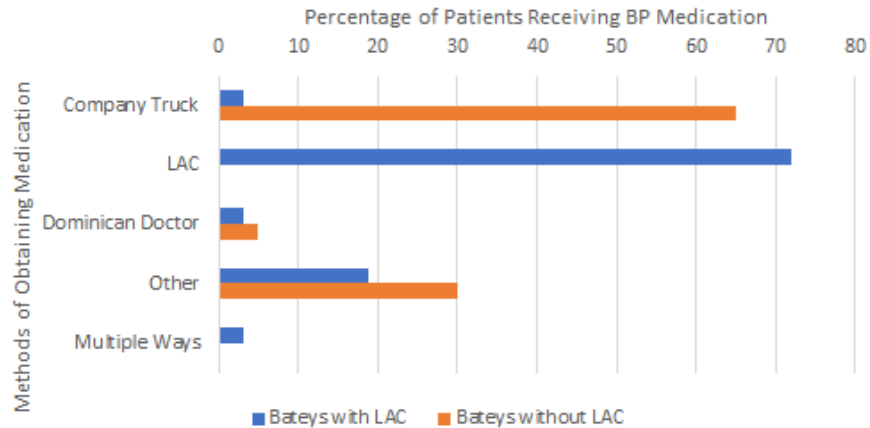
Outcomes



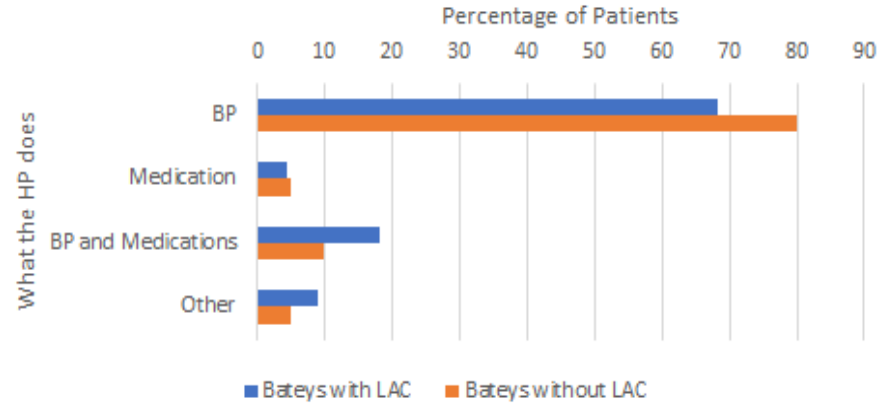
Means of Systolic and Diastolic BP on Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC			
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
	LAC	No LAC	p-value
Systolic BP	147.54 (24.65)	146.74 (20.09)	0.891
Diastolic BP	83.31 (13.72)	84.89 (12.09)	0.648

Outcomes

How Patients Get Their Medication on Bateys with LAC vs. Without LAC



How the Promotoras Help Patients with HTN on Bateys with LAC vs. Bateys without LAC





Identifying the Community Needs through:

- Local Promotoras
- Light a Candle
- Door to door patient assessments
- Local doctors



Community Needs being addressed

- Hypertension
- Health literacy
- Medication management
- Community Involvement- local health promoters
- Light a Candle Program





Challenges

- Residents lives are governed by The Central Romana Sugar Mill
- Demographically isolated
- Immigration Status
- Health insurance
- Transitional Community



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