

KIDNEY DISEASE SCREENING AND AWARENESS

PROGRAM: ADDRESSING AN UNDERSERVED NEED

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Chronic kidney disease (CKD) affects 11% of the US adult population and 50 million people worldwide. The burden of chronic kidney disease is costly in both human and financial terms and is a pressing public health problem. The Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP) is a collaborative outreach program initiated in fall 2007 by undergraduates at Harvard College dedicated to educate and screen local communities about risk factors for chronic kidney disease (CKD). The program draws upon 3 key resources: Brigham and Women's Hospital Asian Renal Clinic (BWH-ARC), NKF Kidney Early Evaluation Program (NKF-KEEP), and students from Harvard Medical School, 3 colleges, and a local high school. Outreach events are sponsored by the BWH-ARC and publicized in local Boston communities 3-4 months in advance. All student volunteers attend a two hour training session by the local NKF-KEEP, who provides the screening forms and on-site equipments. On-site presentations about the risk factors and prevention strategies for CKD are led by Dr. Li-Li Hsiao, a staff nephrologist at BWH. Over the past year, over 600 community members have been educated through CKD seminars and 300 screened at 4 different locations in the greater Boston area, including Framingham, Lowell, Belmont, and Newton. Resources have included over 60 student volunteers, 20 NKF staff members, and 5 faculty/employees from BWH. In order to provide more culturally-oriented care, members of KDSAP have assisted BWH-ARC in translating the standardized NKF screening form into Mandarin Chinese. Because of the impact and effectiveness of the program, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) in Boston's Chinatown has agreed to partner with BWH-ARC and KDSAP to establish a permanent screening clinic for its underserved population. Our goal is to establish an effective and sustainable model for community outreach through efficient use of available resources.