

Self-reported income from CF patients and families: differences in income distribution by age and gender

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The Northern New England Cystic Fibrosis Consortium



The NNECFC is a regional, voluntary consortium of more than 80 clinicians and researchers from the CF care centers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The mission of the group is to improve CF care and patient outcomes.

Introduction

- There is a strong negative association between income and mortality rate in the US CFF Registry, using data mapped by zip code to the Census of the Population (Pediatrics 111;333-339, 2003). We believe these group level data understate the effect.

Goal

- The purpose of this study was to collect patient-reported income data and more fully describe the socioeconomic conditions of CF patients and families in Northern New England.

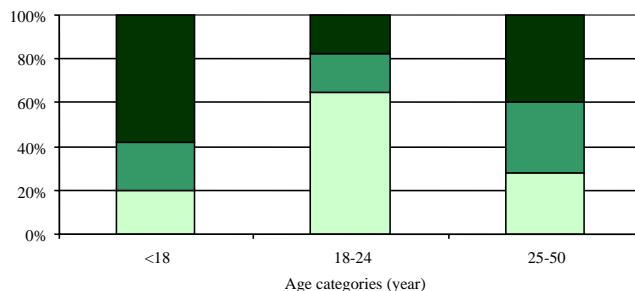
Methods

- We collected information on income, demographics, social support, home and work environmental exposures, and patient-perceived barriers to use of therapies.
- Income was collected as a categorical variable in increments of \$10,000.
- These analyses report results from the first 187 patients interviewed.

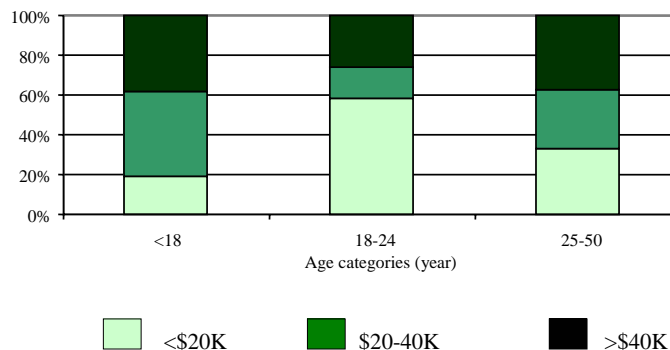
Age group		Income Category		
		<\$20K	\$20-40K	>\$40K
<18	Females	19.2	42.3	38.5
	Males	20.0	22.2	57.8
18-24	Females	57.9	15.8	26.3
	Males	64.7	17.7	17.7
25-60	Females	33.3	29.2	37.5
	Males	28.0	32.0	40.0

Household Income vs. Age

Males



Females



Results

- 194 of 426 patients in the region have been approached to participate (46%).
- 187 patients agreed to participate. Only five participants refused to answer the annual household income question.
- In patients less than 18 years of age, 38.5% of females compared to 57.8% of males live in households with an annual income >\$40,000.
- There is a severe drop in household income for both males and females at age 18. In patients age 18-24 years, 64.7% of males report a household income less than \$20,000 and 57.9% of females.
- In these preliminary data, adult males work for pay more frequently than adult females (56.8% vs 37.8%), and for longer hours (mean 39.7 vs. 34.2 hours).

Conclusion

- Patients will report household income using a categorical response question.
- In these preliminary data, only 38.5% of females <18 live in households earning >\$40,000 per year, compared to 57.8% of males, indicating more socioeconomic disadvantage in female pediatric patients.
- Both males and females have a sharp drop in income at age 18, a time of particular physical vulnerability in their disease progression (pulmonary and nutrition decline) and transition to independent living.