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Influence of socio-economic health determinants on participation in screening programs in Gorenjska

Alenka Hafner

A Hafner, D Zupan

National Institute of Public Health, Regional Unit Kranj, Kranj, Slovenia

Contact: alenka.hafner@nijz.si

Background:

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate response rate/smear coverage in Svit/Zora programs in Gorenjska across municipalities and to examine whether participation in screening programs depends on socio-economic determinants of municipalities.

Methods:

For the monitoring burden of cervical and colorectal cancer in Gorenjska, the data from the Slora website were used. The data for three-year smear coverage were obtained from the Zora website (period 2007-2015). The National Institute of Public Health was the source of data on response rate to Svit program (period 2010-2015). The data on response rate/smear coverage were shown at the level of Gorenjska, of administrative units and of municipalities. The publications Health in the municipality (National Institute of Public Health) and Slovenian regions and municipalities (Statistical Office) were the source of data on health determinants.

Results:

The screening programs Zora and Svit reduced morbidity and mortality in Gorenjska. The target of 70 % smear coverage in program Zora was exceeded in the period 2012 -2015. The smear coverage in the program Zora was the highest in administrative unit Škofja Loka and its municipalities. In 2015 62% response rate to the program Svit ranked Gorenjska region at 2nd place nationwide. The administrative unit of Škofja Loka and all four of its municipalities had the best response rate. Both indicators of participation in screening programs strongly correlated with each other statistically (Pearson's correlation coefficient = 0.835, $p = 0.000$). Participation in screening programs was significantly better in municipalities with a higher level of working activity, with lower unemployment, lower absenteeism, where flats are bigger and the population is younger.

Conclusions:

Prevention and early detection of cancer through screening programs are important elements that can help to improve the quality of life of individuals and reduce the burden of cancer in the population.

Key messages:

- In the Gorenjska region there was a strong statistically significant correlation in screening programs for cervical cancer and colorectal cancer.
- Participation in screening programs was better in municipalities with higher working activity, with lower