Marshall Medical Outreach

Melanoma Prevention – Have You Herd?

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- **Project** – The project was designed for the homeless population in Huntington to:
  - Educate them on how to recognize Melanoma and prevent UV radiation exposure
  - Demonstrate how to self-assess skin abnormalities and differentiate between normal and abnormal growths
  - Provide information regarding the locations where they can receive further care and treatment of skin cancer related concerns
  - Provide a skin care kit containing sunscreen

- **Aim(s) addressed:**
  - Aim 8 – Reduce the use of artificial ultra-violet (UV) light for tanning.

- **How many people were reached:** 178

- **Evaluation method:** pretest/post test

- **Evaluation results:** Evaluation of the pre-test and post test showed that participants increased their level of knowledge about melanoma. In addition to the pre-test and posttest there was audience participation during the presentation and questions asked that showed an interest in the topic as well as being able to apply knowledge learned. For example, at the end of the PowerPoint presentation groups of two pictures were shown and the audience had to use the ABCDEs of Melanoma that they had just learned to identify the cancerous lesion. Collectively, they did very well and were able to justify their answers based on what had been taught.

- **How will evaluation results be used in the future:** Despite not having data to support that the individual approach was beneficial, the group still feels that discussing melanoma safety one-on-one with patients is the most effective way to educate the population. Additionally, after speaking with some of the patients showed concern about their own skin lesions that they probably wouldn’t not have noticed had it not been for the program. The project leader is a future family physician and plans to use the knowledge and skills learned through this mini-grant project in her practice and provide education on sun safety and how to recognize suspicious skin lesions.