

# Implementing Best Practices for Screening People of Color for Melanoma

Yasmin Mathlin, DNP, MSN, APRN, AGPCNP-BC

## Purpose

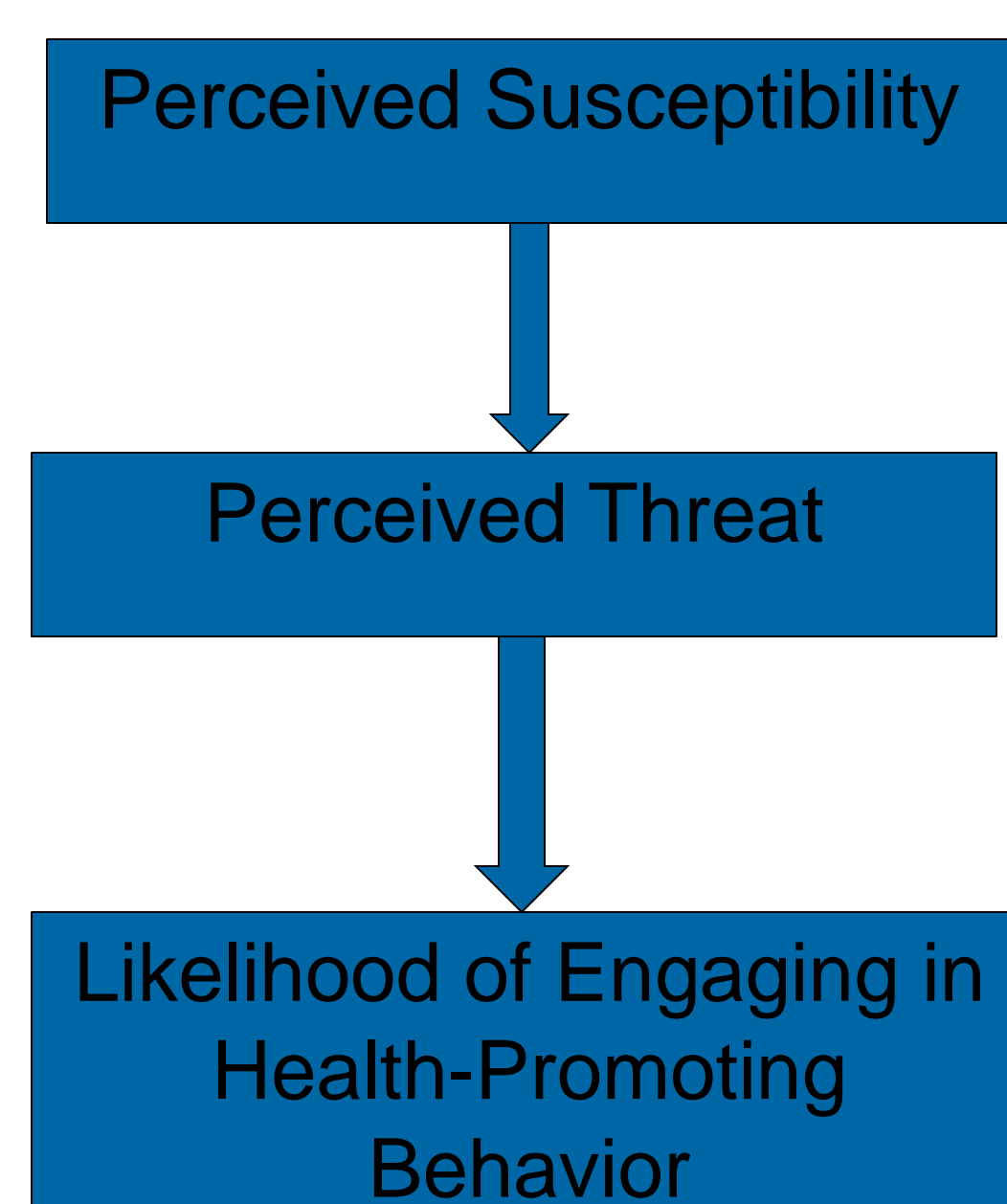
- This quality improvement project was developed to improve the knowledge and awareness of melanoma in people with skin of color through education.

## Background

- Melanoma has a low incidence in skin of color. However, the mortality rate is higher in this population because it is often diagnosed in advanced stages.
- The key reason for this is that people with skin of color have a perception that their skin color protects them from skin cancer. There is a knowledge deficit in skin cancer and how it presents in people with skin of color.
- The ABCDEs of melanoma have been used to identify key features of melanoma. A=asymmetry, B=boarder, C=color, D=diameter, E=evolution

## Methods

- The Health Belief Model (HBM) will be used to guide this quality improvement education project.



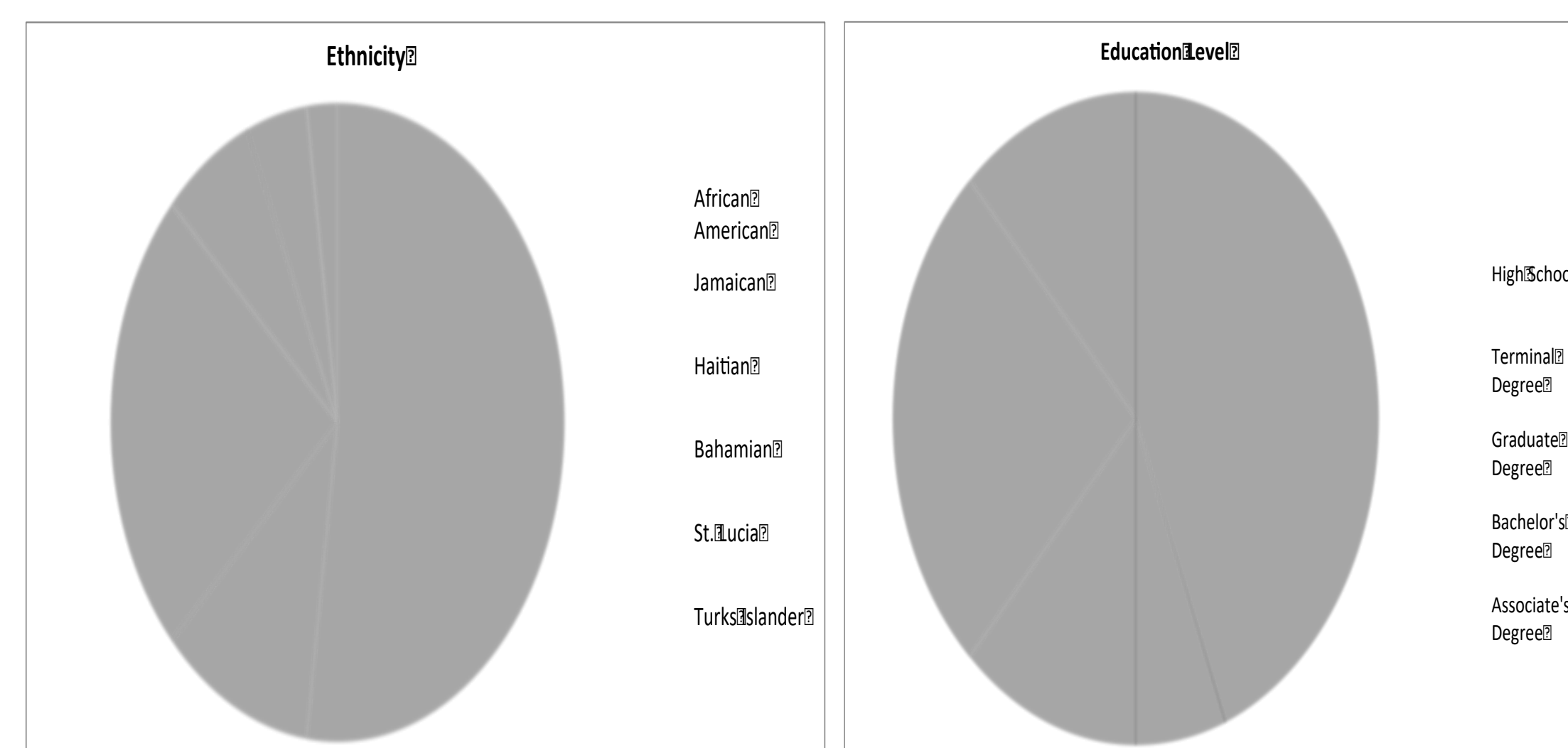
- A teach back method will be used to educate people with skin of color about their susceptibility to melanoma. As a result, this population will gain awareness and will be able to change their health behavior about melanoma.

## Methods (Continued)

- N= 50 patients with skin of color
- After patients with skin of color are educated about melanoma they will be asked what they learned that they didn't know. Patients will be scored 1 point each for a total of 3 points if:
  - A) they verbalize understanding of the ABCDEs of melanoma (0.2 points will be given for each letter of the ABCDEs of melanoma)
  - B) could patient identify a possible pigmented lesion that would need to be examined
  - C) did patient verbalize the need to have hands and feet examined
- A response of 2.8-3/3 will be deemed as a successful learning outcome. 2.4-2.79/3 will be considered moderately successful. 1.8-2.39/3 will be considered mildly successful and 0-1.79/3 will be deemed as an unsuccessful learning outcome

## Results

- Mean age: 43.8 yrs.
- Mean education level: 6% had a terminal degree (MD, PhD, JD), 12% had a graduate degree (MS, MSN, MBA), 26% had a bachelor's degree, 12% had an associate's degree, 44% had a high school diploma
- Mean ethnicity: 48% African American, 22% Haitian, 10% Jamaican, 6% Bahamian, 4% St. Lucian, 2% Turks Islander, 2% Cuban, 2% Nicaraguan



## Discussion

- Researchers have identified that acral lentiginous melanoma is the subtype of melanoma that affects people with skin of color the most, the only recommendations suggested is having dermatologists use the classic ABCDEs to identify them.
- This project is an attempt to determine how people with skin of color should be educated about melanoma and what learning methods are effective.
- As participants in this project were educated about melanoma, they became aware that melanoma does affect their skin type.
- Once the participants realized they could be diagnosed with melanoma, they were interested in further preventative education. Thus, participants of this project successfully progressed through the Health Belief Model.
- The overall results showed a moderately successful learning outcome, with a mean score of 2.69; however, when individual results were examined, it was determined that participants with a high school education had lower scores after the teach back. Educational level had an impact on ability to retain and repeat the concepts involved in education of melanoma.
- The results support the need for focusing education about melanoma to people with skin of color that have a lower education level.
- Different learning tools, such as pictures and pamphlets with vocabulary written at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade education need to be explored to foster understanding and comprehension.

## Melanoma in Skin of Color



## Limitations

- Mostly female participants
- Patient population was predominately limited to African Americans
- Small sample size
- Questionnaire did not take into account different learning abilities of patients

## Acknowledgments

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## References

- Available upon request