

Study of Appalachian adults reveals willingness to participate in research

July 6 2018, by Scott Gilbert

The *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* has accepted a new study examining health disparities of Appalachian residents. It was conducted by public health professionals from Penn State College of Medicine, Ohio State University, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and the University of Kentucky.

Eugene Lengerich and Betsy Aumiller helped author "Predictors of Willingness to Participate in Biospecimen Donation and Biobanking among Appalachian Adults." The goal of this research is to improve biomedical research for this population.

The rural population of the Appalachian region experience higher rates of cancer but are underrepresented in disease-related research. Many cancer prevention tactics for this area focus on changing behaviors, but their research examined biological approaches.

"We were surprised to see the overwhelming willingness of Appalachian residents to donate biospecimens for research purposes," said Lengerich, associate director of [health disparities](#) and engagement at Penn State Cancer Institute.

The paper examined 493 participants in a randomized, multi-state study to reduce cancer risk among adult residents of Appalachia. Participants responded about their willingness to donate samples of blood, saliva and/or tissue, and whether they would agree to have these biospecimens stored in order to help researchers study conditions such as [cancer](#), heart

disease and obesity. Of those surveyed, 75 percent were willing to have all three collected, and 61 percent expressed a [willingness](#) to have their samples banked. An overwhelming majority—97 percent—said their biospecimens could be used for genetic research.

"The results of this study suggest that targeted educational programs that build awareness of biospecimen collection processes could be impactful within this population and perhaps others," said Aumiller, assistant professor of public [health](#) sciences.

Provided by Pennsylvania State University

Citation: Study of Appalachian adults reveals willingness to participate in research (2018, July 6) retrieved 14 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-07-appalachian-adults-reveals-willingness.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
