School of Public Health  
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Public Health

Jenna Webb  
will defend her thesis:

AN ANALYSIS OF POSTMASTECTOMY BREAST RECONSTRUCTION DUE TO BREAST CANCER IN NEVADA AND THE UNITED STATES FROM 2008-2013

Abstract

Background: In the United States, female breast cancer was the leading cause of new cancer cases from 2011-2015. Since the Women’s Health and Cancer Act of 1998 (WHCRA), the federal government mandates employee and private health insurance providers to cover breast reconstruction if they cover mastectomies. Postmastectomy breast reconstruction (PBR) rates increased after the WHCRA, but these rates have remained relatively low throughout recent years. **Objective:** The objective of this study is to determine factors associated with women having PBR or not having breast reconstruction after a mastectomy due to breast cancer in Nevada and the United States from 2008 to 2013. **Methods:** Using two HCUP database, NIS and SID databases, this study uses complex multiple logistic regression and binary logistic regression to analyze the association between PBR and specific demographic, payer type, and hospital characteristics in the United States and Nevada. Frequencies will be calculated for the different breast reconstruction procedures and comorbidities that this study utilizes. **Results:** The results demonstrated that Women who were younger, non-African American, had private health insurance, were in the high-income status category, and received care at an urban teaching hospital had higher odds of having PBR than other women. In Nevada and the United States, surgeons performed tissue expander insertions more than any other breast reconstruction procedure. The same nine comorbidities were prevalent among women in the United States and Nevada. **Conclusion:** Disparities among age, payer types, racial/ethnic groups, and socioeconomic statuses in PBR still exist in the United States. Nevada should implement breast reconstruction education policies to decrease these disparities and policy makers should continue to advocate for the passage of the Breast Cancer Patient Education Act of 2015.

Date: Thursday, April 18th  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Location: BHS 131

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Committee In Charge:
Dr. Sheniz Moonie, Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
Dr. Chad Cross, Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
Dr. Brian Labus, Advisory Committee Member  
Dr. Jessica Word, Graduate College Representative