

Health and Well-Being Initiative
at the University of Notre Dame

Emerging Opportunities in Health Grant

Project: Nutrient intake differences based on HIV status

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Keywords: HIV; Cancer; Nutritional Epidemiology; National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

Proposal

Goals and Objectives:

The long-term goal of this research is to develop specific nutritional recommendations for people living with HIV (PLWH) that would reduce their risk of cancer development. PLWH have always been at an increased risk of cancer development; however, the risk has and will continue to increase as more effective HIV treatments are created and utilized that increased life expectancy. It is imperative that the relationship between the HIV virus, treatments, and nutrition is more thoroughly understood to identify the potential existence of interactions that may be contributing to the increased risk. It is hypothesized that maintaining recommended levels of circulating nutrients will lead to a decreased risk of cancer among PLWH.

This proposed study will be the first step in the process of to identify these potential interactions. The primary objective is to conduct preliminary analysis using a freely available dataset, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). This analysis will be used to explore the differences between nutrient intakes based on HIV status, as well as to examine the trends in these intakes over time. The secondary objective is to continue to review the literature for the identification of important nutrient/cancer relationships that require further investigation, and will therefore focus a future study that includes the collection of primary data.