

Implementing a Screening Tool for Homelessness at LVHN: A Pilot Project - a Subset Analysis on Gender Differences

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Implementing a Screening Tool for Homelessness at LVHN: A Pilot Project

A Subset Analysis on Gender Differences

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Background

LVHN developed the study titled Implementing a Screening Tool for Homelessness at LVHN: A Pilot Project to determine the prevalence for homelessness or at risk for homelessness in the LVHN Emergency Department (ED) population. A subset analysis on the screening tool results was conducted with a specific focus on gender.

Gender Analysis Objective:

- To determine the relationship between gender and homelessness in the LVHN ED homeless population

Through discovering whether gender differences exist in the LVHN ED homeless population, the LVHN Street Medicine Program, a medical care outreach program for homeless patients, will:

- Develop a better understanding of gender ratios in the Street Medicine Program
- Improve medical care provided to Lehigh Valley homeless patients with knowledge of homeless patient gender expectancies

Methods

- IRB approved study based on HUD definition of homelessness developed
- Survey time, location, and pod section scheduled to prevent screening bias
 - Locations: Lehigh Valley Hospital Cedar Crest, Muhlenberg, and 17th & Chew Street EDs
- Administered to ED patients
 - Strictly adhering to inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Patient gender recorded in log book
- Data analyzed with two-tailed Fischer's Exact test or Chi-Square test

Results

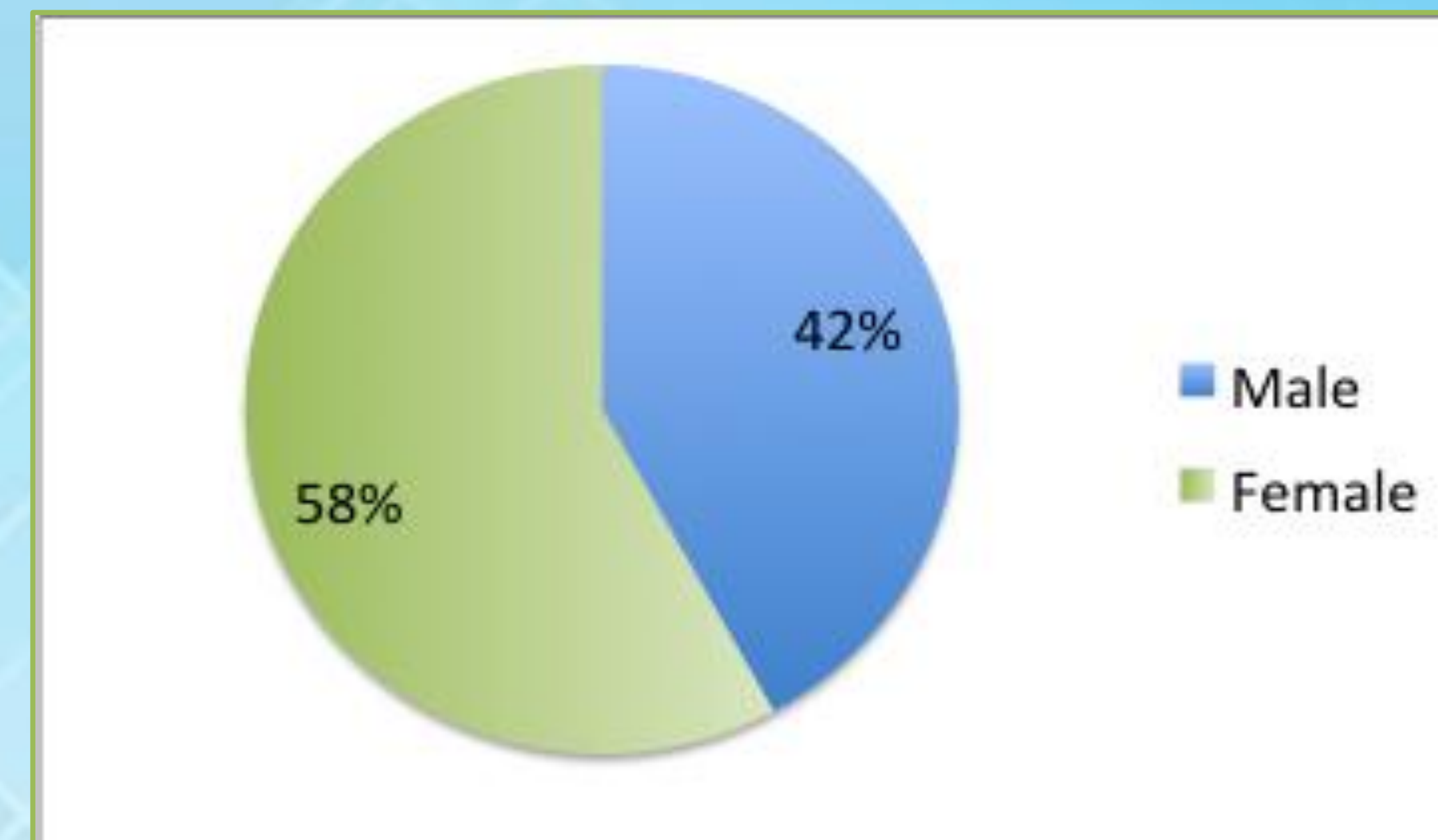


Figure 1. The gender differences in the number of total patients who participated in the survey. N=1615.

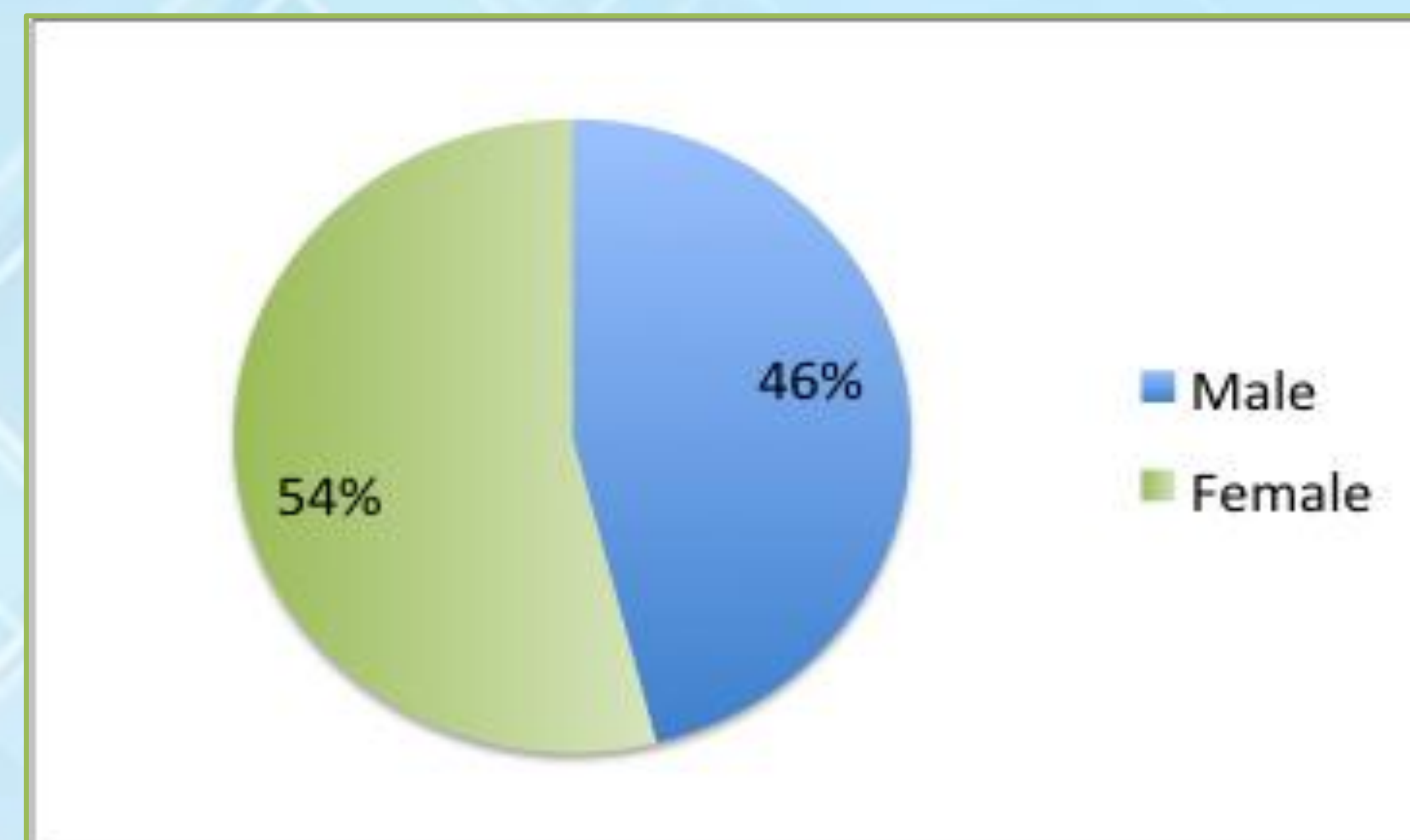


Figure 2. The gender differences in the number of patients who screened positive for homelessness. N=113.

Table 1. The gender differences in positive survey questions responses. N=113.

Question Number	Male	Female	Total
Q1	44	53	97
Q2	15	15	30
Q3	39	38	78
Q4	8	13	21
Q5	18	17	35

Discussion

- Out of 1615 total patients screened, 58% were female and 42% were male. The analysis resulted in a p value of 0.02, indicating that there is a significant difference in gender of participants.
- Out of 113 identified homeless patients, 54% were female and 46% were male. The analysis resulted in a p value of 0.29, indicating no significant difference in the gender of homeless patients.
- Table 1 represents the gender differences in responses. Analysis results on each question indicate that there is no significant difference between question responses and gender.

Overall, there is no significant difference between gender and homelessness in LVHN ED homeless patients, but the implications of gender differences in homeless patients should continue to be studied.

Limitations

- The survey excludes non-English speaking patients and psychiatric patients.
- Summer screening season is incomplete, additional data collection may change results.
- Screening represents only one season: Summer 2015. Screening will be repeated in Winter 2016 to determine if data varies by season.
- Gender options are only male or female

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