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Pelvic Pain and Barriers to Care in University Women  
Abstract  

Problem/Significance: Pelvic pain in women is linked to a range of chronic health problems which result in billions of dollars in direct and indirect costs each year. While some research on chronic pelvic pain exists with respect to older women, it is critical to assess younger women’s experiences with these maladies, as research suggests high prevalence rates in this population.  

Objectives:  
1. To analyze data gathered in a limited pilot study carried out among women at the University of Florida  
2. To utilize insight gained to build a more comprehensive questionnaire to assess rates of pelvic pain, and barriers to care encountered, for women at UF  

Methods: The pilot study was analyzed and data used to build the current project, an extensive online survey created in the REDCap electronic data capture tool. This survey was sent to a random sample of 2000 female students.  

Results: A total of 189 surveys have thus far been analyzed. 78.84% reported experiencing pelvic pain over the past year, with high rates of menstrual pain, internal pelvic pain from intercourse, and bowel pain. Over 80% of the respondents have not received diagnoses for their pain, and they reported significant barriers to care, which were quantitatively and qualitatively assessed.  

Conclusions: Pelvic pain in younger women is a critical public health issue. The expansion of this study, and continued research into prevalence and barriers to care, will contribute to a growing information base about how to efficiently deal with chronic pelvic pain syndromes.