

# IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING IN RURAL WOMEN

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## Background

### Problem

- 93% of cervical cancer cases preventable (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020)
- Cervical cancer primarily affects women 35 to 44 years old (American Cancer Society [ACS], 2021)

U.S. Annual Cervical Cancer Cases	U.S. Annual Cervical Cancer Mortality
14,500 (ACS, 2021)	4,290 (ACS, 2021)

### Significance

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in rural Northern Arizona cervical cancer screening rate is **78%**
- Healthy People 2030** National Initiative's target cervical cancer screening rate is **84.3%** (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS] & Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion [ODPHP], 2020)

### Evidence Synthesis

- Evidence shows that identifying socioeconomic barriers unique to rural women can improve cervical cancer screening rates (Akinlotan et al., 2017; Atere-Roberts et al., 2020; Barrington et al., 2019; Binka et al., 2019; Falk et al., 2018; Hall et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2017; McGinnis et al., 2017; Megersa et al., 2020; Moss et al., 2017; Smith-Gagen et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2019; Weng et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2019).

## Project Purpose

- Identifying **barriers** to routine **cervical cancer screening** unique to rural women

## Methods

- Institutional Review Board:** ASU exempt status approval
- Setting:** A **one-day** event called, "See, Test, and Treat" hosted by the FQHC
- Population:** Arizona women, uninsured, underinsured, 21 – 65 years old, English or Spanish speaking
- Intervention:** An **anonymous written intake survey** identifying participant demographics, cervical cancer risk factor knowledge, and perceived socioeconomic barriers
- Data Collection:** Intake survey
- Data Analysis:** Descriptive statistics

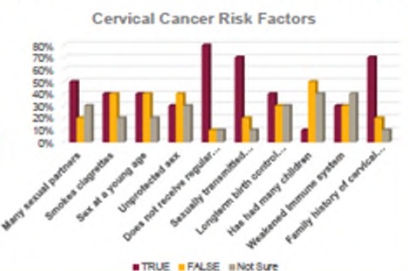
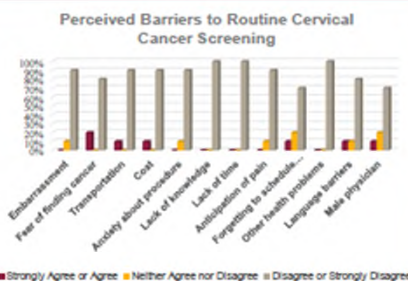


College of American Pathologists (2021) – "See, Test, and Treat" Advertisement Flyer

## Results

- 18 survey responses, final yield (**n = 10**), with a mean age of 47.5

Participant Demographics		
Variable	n	%
Marital Status	5	50.00
Single	3	30.00
Married	2	20.00
Living with Partner	2	20.00
Race	3	30.00
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	20.00
White or Caucasian	5	50.00
Other	3	30.00
County	1	10.00
Cocino	1	10.00
Yavapai	1	10.00
Education	5	50.00
College	2	20.00
High School	1	10.00
Vocational College	1	10.00
Middle School	1	10.00
Graduate School	1	10.00
Insurance	3	30.00
Private Insurance	7	70.00
Uninsured	3	30.00
Primary Language	6	60.00
English	4	40.00
Spanish	2	20.00
Hispanic or Latino	4	40.00
No	4	40.00
Yes	4	40.00



- Most participants **disagreed** with all **identified** socioeconomic barriers
- A lack of knowledge of **cervical cancer risk factors** was identified

## Discussion

### Strengths/Facilitators

- Intake survey applicable for all rural settings
- Surveys provided in-person and collected in one day

### Limitations/Barriers

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria was limiting
- Surveys responses were self-reported, possibly influencing accuracy of responses
- Survey language needs revision to be more inclusive

## Conclusions

### Summary

- Survey identified a **lack of knowledge** regarding **cervical cancer risk factors** rather than participant perceived socioeconomic barriers to routine cervical cancer screening

### Implications

- Routine well woman exams are an optimal time for healthcare professionals to provide cervical cancer education

### Future Recommendations

- Development of evidence-based interventions to evaluate the impact of education on routine cervical cancer screening rates

## Acknowledgements

A special thanks to mentor, Dr. Patricia Janicek, faculty, Ren Noorda, site champion, and Kristi Boniella, event coordinator.

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