

POSTER OF DISTINCTION

Sikka, R., Juon, H-S., & Rimal, R.: Utilization of papanicolaou smears by Asian Indian women living in the United States.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Asian American/Pacific Islander women tend to have lower rates of cervical cancer screening than other groups. Less research has been conducted on South Asian women in the United States, the majority of whom originate from India. Purpose: This study aimed to examine the Pap smear utilization rate among a sample of Asian Indian (AI) women in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan area and to determine important sociodemographic, predisposing, reinforcing and enabling predictors of Pap smear receipt. Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among Asian Indian (AI) women in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan Area, and utilized a purposive sampling strategy. Data collection occurred from August 2005 to February 2006. Results: Approximately 72% of women in this study received a Pap smear within the last three years. AI women with correct knowledge of the Pap smear guidelines were three times more likely to have Pap smears within the last three years than those who had incorrect knowledge (OR=3.40; 95% CI=1.65, 7.00). Greater proportion of lifetime in the United States (OR=3.49; 95% CI=1.69, 7.18) and doctor recommendation of Pap smears (OR=8.13; 95% CI=2.54, 26.06) were also important predictors. Women with Asian Indian doctors were less likely to get regular Pap smears than those with non-Asian Indian doctors (OR=0.32; 95% CI= 0.13, 0.76). The interaction between marital status and education was significant, with women who were married and had a college degree or higher education more likely to have regular Pap smears than unmarried women with less than a college education (OR=7.40; 95% CI=1.09, 50.23). Conclusions: The cervical cancer screening rates for AI women fall short of the Healthy People 2000 guidelines, which aim for 85% of U.S. women to receive Pap smears in the last three years; Healthy People 2010 aims for a 97% screening rate. AI women should be targeted for cervical cancer screening.