

Poster 15: Poor Self-Rated Mental Health Affected Cervical Cancer Screening Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Topic: Cervical

Objectives

This study examined the associations between cervical cancer screening and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic among Hispanic and non-Hispanic White women.

Methods

A retrospective, cross-sectional study was conducted using the All of Us Research Program database maintained by the NIH. The primary analysis included Hispanic and non-Hispanic White women aged 21-64 eligible for cervical cancer screening in 2019-2021. Those eligible for screening and who completed the COVID-19 Participant Experience (COPE) survey in 2020 were included in the subgroup analysis. The annual screening rate was calculated as the percentage of women screened yearly among eligible women. Demographic survey data was used to examine socioeconomic characteristics; the COPE survey was used to assess mental health. Descriptive analyses were conducted to assess differences in socioeconomic characteristics and mental health by screening status. Associations between screening and mental health were analyzed by logistic regression.

Results

Among 116,052 eligible women, compared to non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanic women had lower annual screening rates across the three years studied. Hispanic women saw a greater decrease in screening from 2019 to 2020 (39.3 vs 21.2%) and less of a rebound increase the following year (10.3 vs 13.8%). Among 17,764 eligible women who completed the COPE survey in 2020, Hispanic ethnicity and older age were associated with significantly lower odds of screening. Women with at least some college education had higher odds of screening than those with some high school or less education. Divorced/widowed/separated or married/partnered women had higher odds of screening than women who never married. Superior self-rated physical health was associated with higher odds of screening. More severe depressive symptoms, anxiety, and loneliness were all associated with lower odds of screening. Higher perceived stress was associated with higher odds of screening.

Conclusions

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated disparities in cervical cancer screening with a more significant decrease in screening amongst Hispanic women. Women with poorer mental health indicators had significantly lower odds of pursuing screening. These findings highlight a need for targeted interventions for those who missed screening during this time to establish care.

Abstract Table or Graph

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