



Examining the Benefits of Distributing HPV Self-Collection Kits in Hispanic and African American Communities

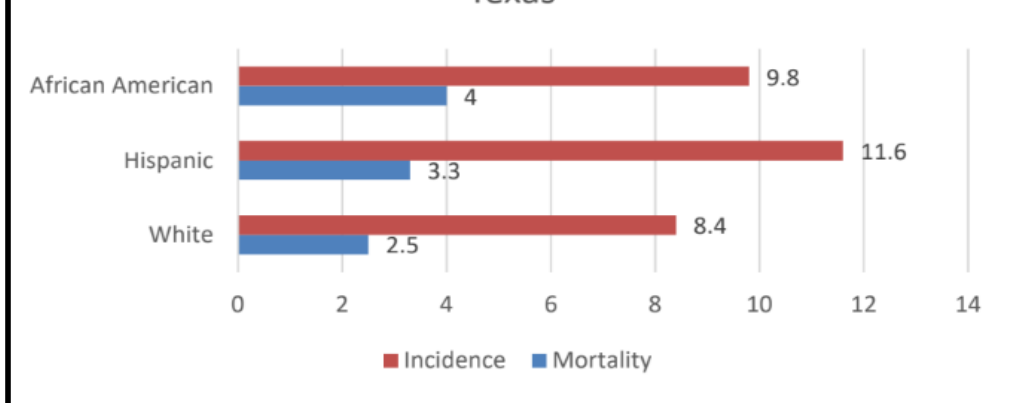
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Research Background

HPV is a common sexually-transmitted infection that usually presents as warts in various parts of the body. In most people, HPV is not detected until after it is gone. HPV causes cancer by infecting cells and causing miscommunication between them, eventually leading to uncontrolled cell growth. The cancer most associated with HPV is cervical cancer as 9/10 cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV. Some other cancers caused by HPV are oropharyngeal cancer, anal cancer, and oral cancer. As of today, the two main forms of prevention against cervical cancer are receiving the HPV vaccine (series to be administered around 11-12 years of age) and undergoing routine cervical cancer screenings. This can either look like a pap smear during which cells are collected from the surface of the cervix and observed for signs of abnormality or it can be in the form of an HPV test. These screenings are recommended for women ages 21-65 every 3 years until 30, when recommended to get it every 5 years. In Texas, Hispanic and African American women have both the highest cervical cancer incidence and cervical cancer mortality rates. Despite the recorded intentions of members in both populations to go in for the recommended routine cervical cancer screenings, many variables from lack of access to transportation to cultural and language barriers prevent them from going in for a screening.

Fig. 1 - Age Adjusted Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates per 100,000 Women in Texas

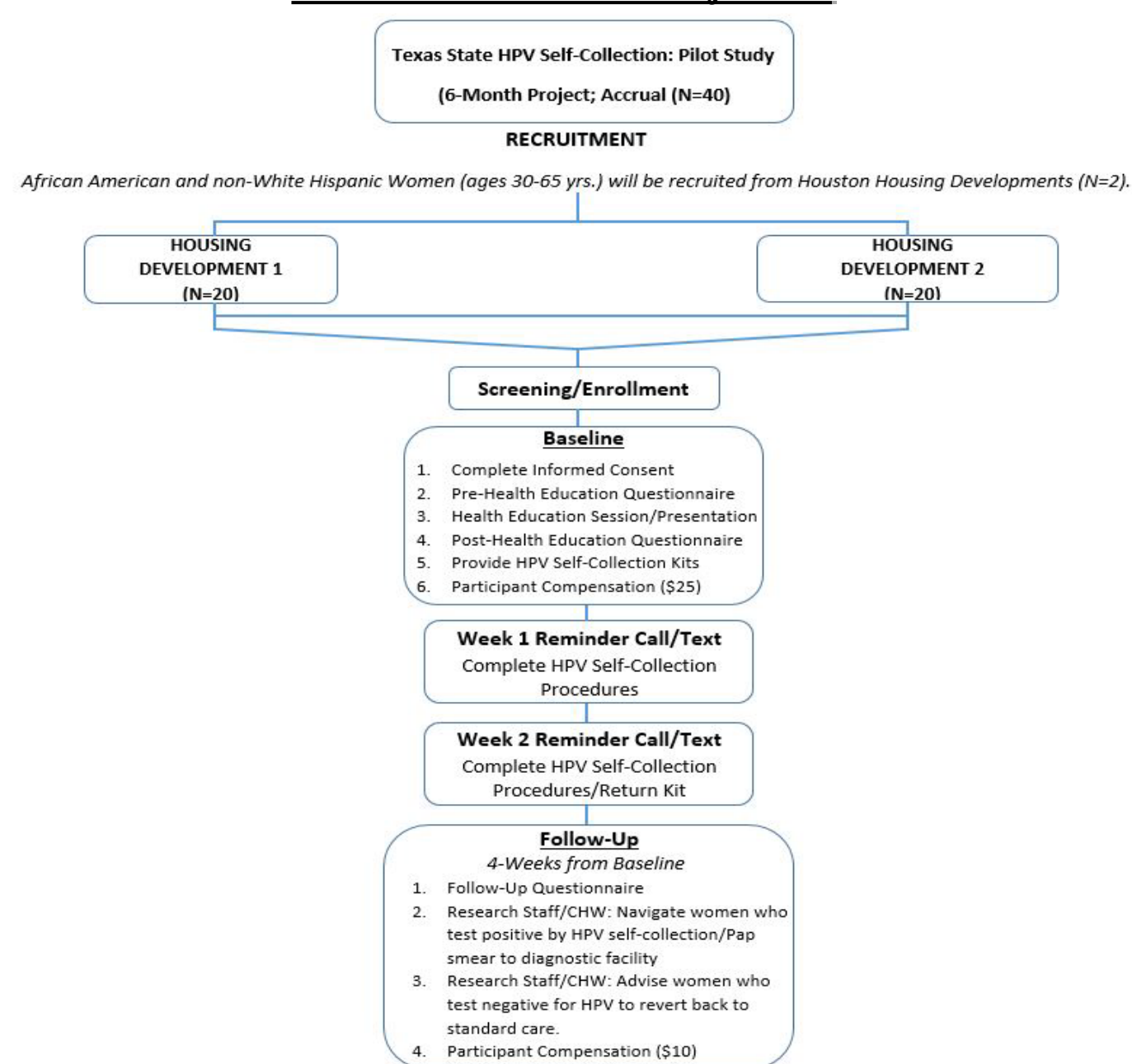


Purpose

Examining the correlation between the higher cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates in Hispanic and African American women by employing the use of HPV self-collection kits allowed for us to explore how viable of a substitute it can be for traditional cervical cancer screenings and exploring a potential solution to eliminating these disparities.

Protocol

Procedure Flow Chart for "Project Self"



Recruitment Observations

Observations of Recruitment Patterns on Certain Significant Participant Recruitment Dates

June 29, 2023	July 3, 2023	July 28, 2023
After discouraging recruitment numbers in previous months, there this day saw 7 participants sign up, the most in one day throughout the recruitment period	Day of final (40th) participant sign-up, after 5 months of recruitment (starting February 17, 2023)	Follow-ups now up to 23 participants, with good progress in terms of participants turning in their kits and showing up for the follow-up

Results (as of 7/31/23)

Race/Ethnicity	No. of women contacted	No. eligible to participate	No. accepted to participate (signed IC)	No. received HPV self-sampling kits	No. completed and mailed back the kits (as confirmed by EW)	No. performed the test correctly (received a +/- response) (as confirmed by EW)	No. completed the study
AA Women	68	24	24	24	13	12	13
H Women	47	16	16	16	12	11	10

Fig 4- Updated results chart of participants in study
{AA women= African American women, H Women= Hispanic women}

Conclusions

- There is varied interest in the use of HPV self-collection kits as a form of cervical cancer screening
 - Benefits of doing an at-home kit over a traditional pap smear in hospital need to be further examined, but seems to be convenient in terms of time and available resources
- Process of recruitment, carrying out self-collection, and coming for follow-up is well understood by majority of participants, proving feasibility of normalizing HPV self-collection kits being used for cervical cancer screening

Future Directions

As this is a pilot study, there are various factors that can be changed in the future to make the study offer the best results possible, such as: improving the health education presentation, providing more resources for those who have a positive result from the kit, and expanding to other housing sites to reach the already established participant quota in a shorter time frame or to increase the quota and have more participants in the study

Acknowledgments

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Project Self Protocol (2019, Shastri)

References

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