



Project Self – Pilot Study testing the feasibility of implementing HPV self-collection kits among African American and Hispanic women

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Introduction

- Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.
- Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer.
- When exposed to HPV, the body's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm.
- In a small percentage of people, however, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cervical cells to become cancer cells.
- Significant disparities are seen in the United States with age and ethnicity-adjusted cervical cancer incidence.
- These disparities are a source of great concern and results from the fear of embarrassment, cultural barriers and significant differences in access to cervical cancer screening for women.
- A new way to screen: HPV test
- Can be done without a Pap test
- Detects HPV infection
- Collects cells from the cervix
- Recommended for women ages 30-65 years old

Employing HPV self-collection as an evident based strategy could potentially increase screening uptake rates in underserved women.

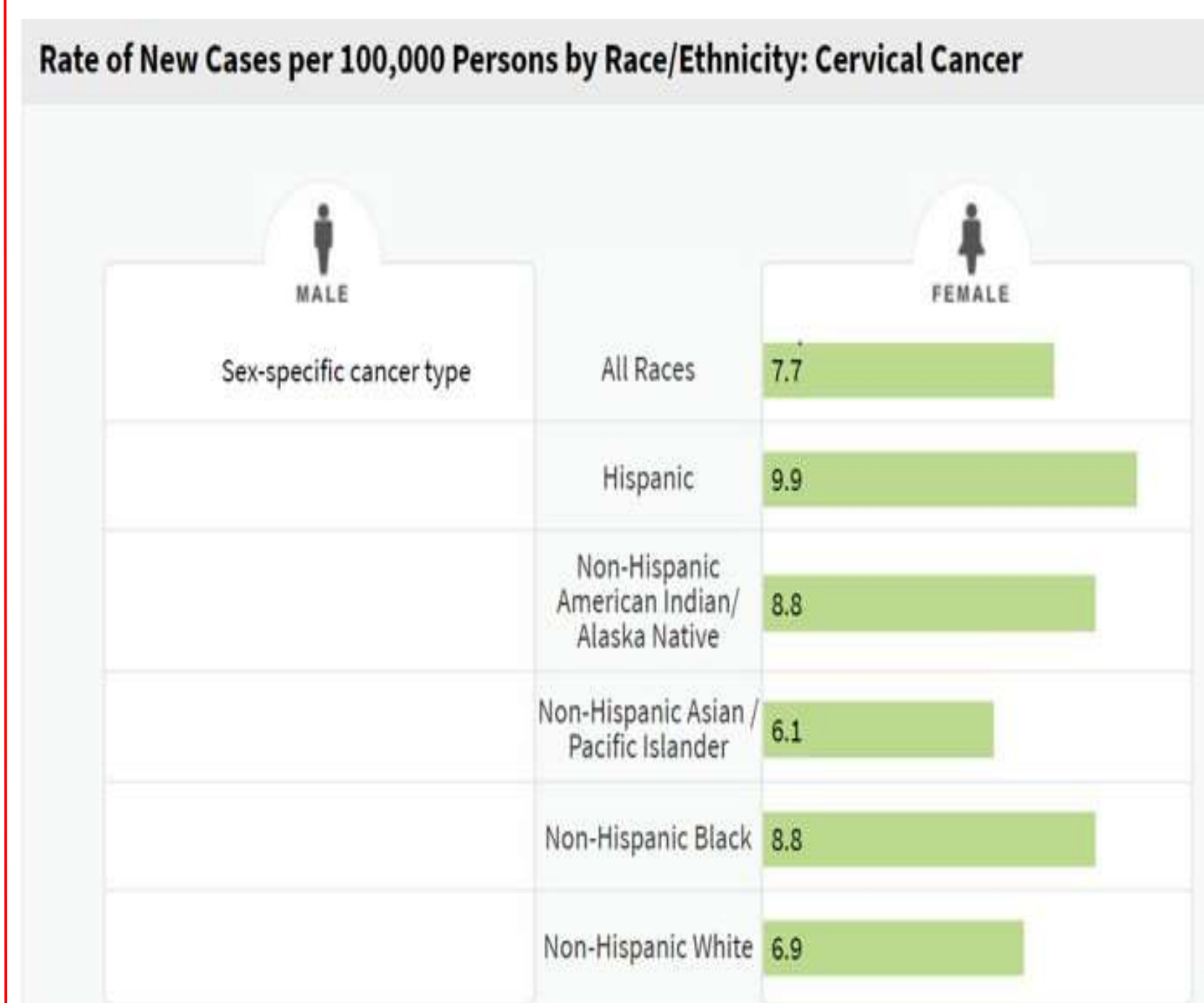


Figure 1. New cases of cervical cancer by race/ethnicity in the United States.

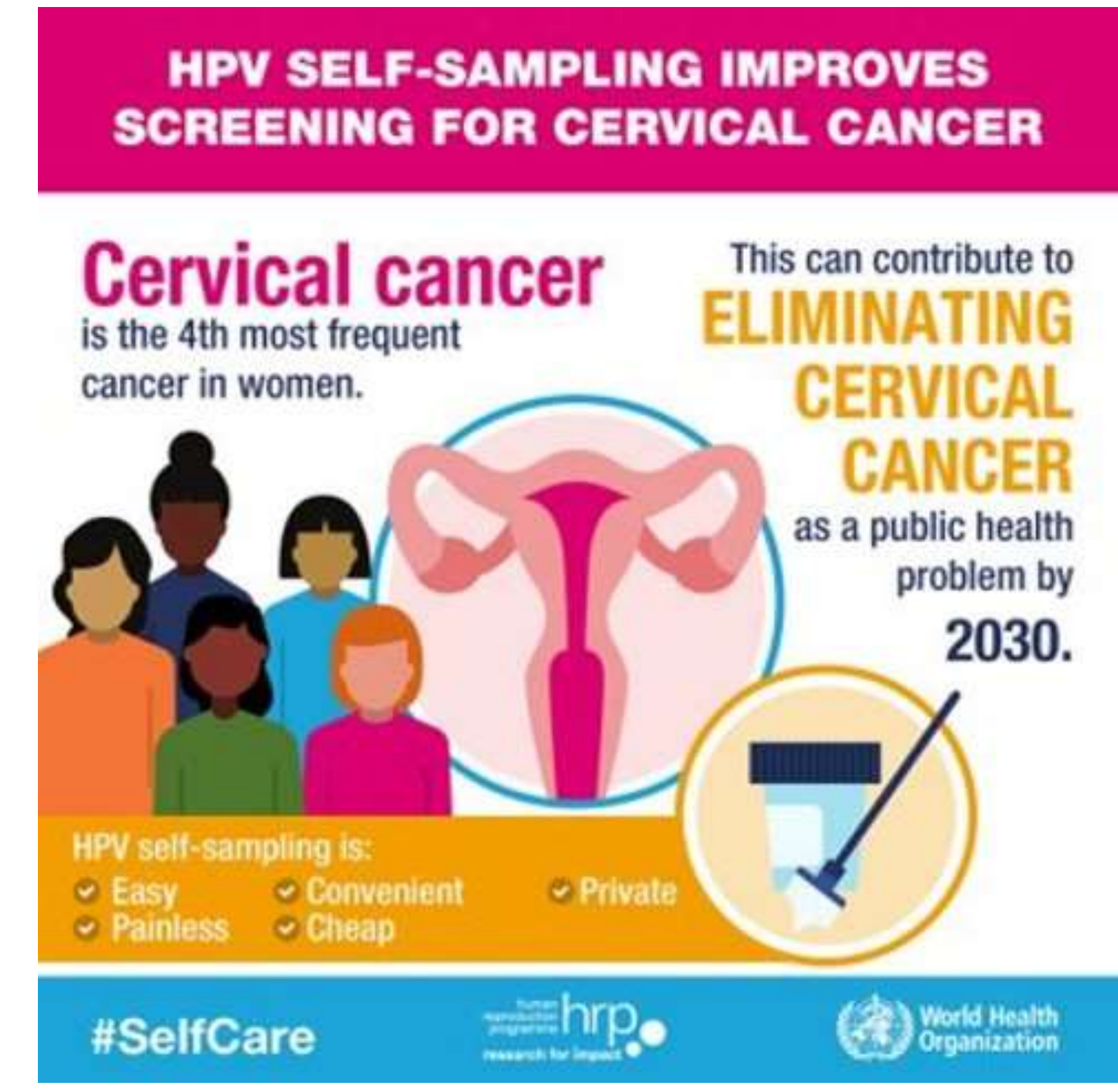


Figure 2. HPV self-screening infographic for the health education session.

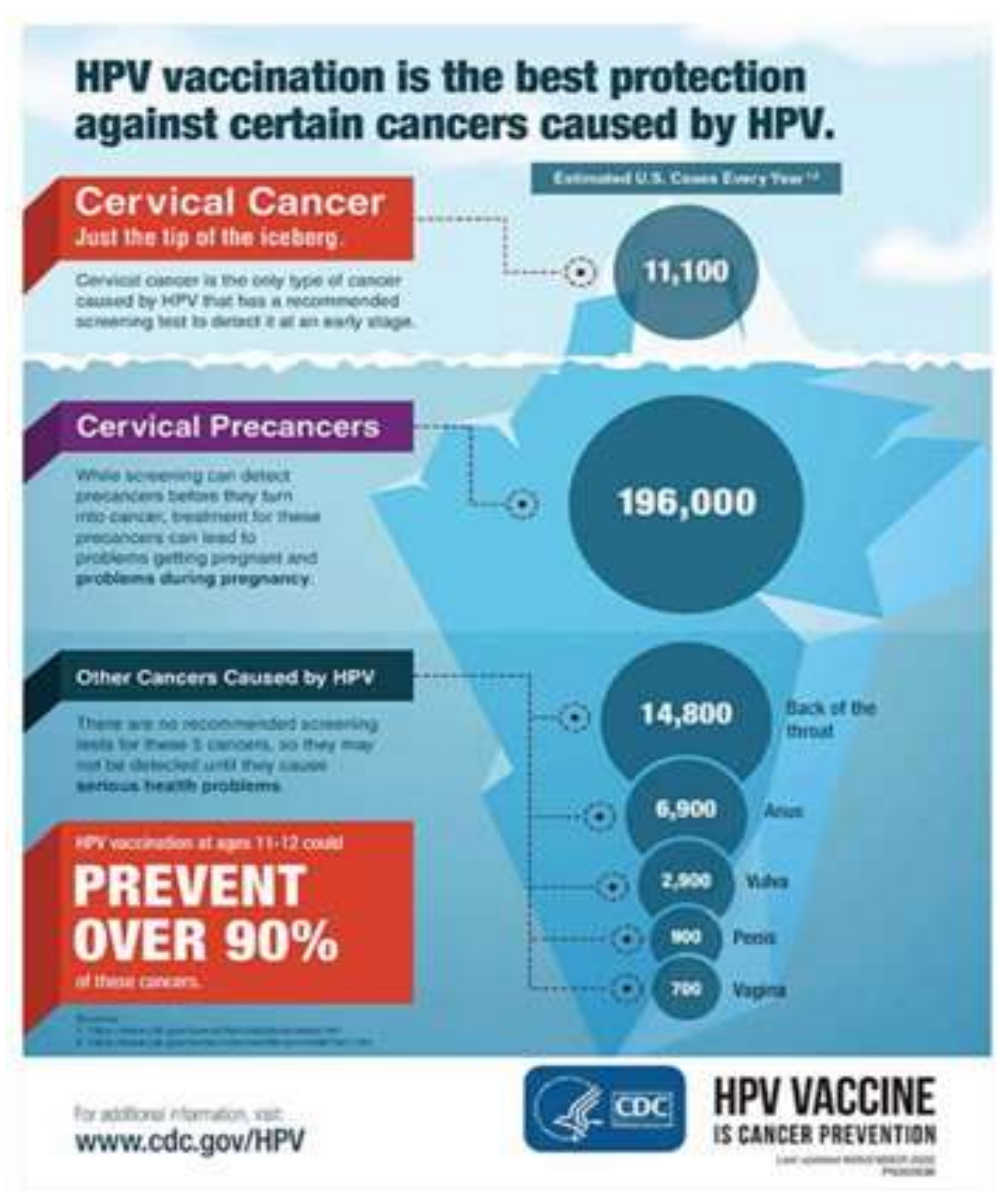


Figure 3. Importance of HPV vaccination infographic focusing on cervical cancer.

Method

- Eligibility Criteria**
 - 40 African American and non-White Hispanic women (ages 30-65 years) were recruited from Houston Housing Developments (N=2).
- Screening/Enrollment**
 - Patients were screened. If eligible, they were given an Informed consent form, pre-health education questionnaire, health education session, and post-health questionnaire followed by the self-collection self-kit. Upon completion, compensation of \$25 was provided.
- Follow-Up**
 - During week one and two, a reminder were sent by call/text to complete HPV self-collection kit. After four weeks, we provided follow-up questionnaire and advised women who tested HPV positive to a diagnostic facility followed by a compensation of \$10.

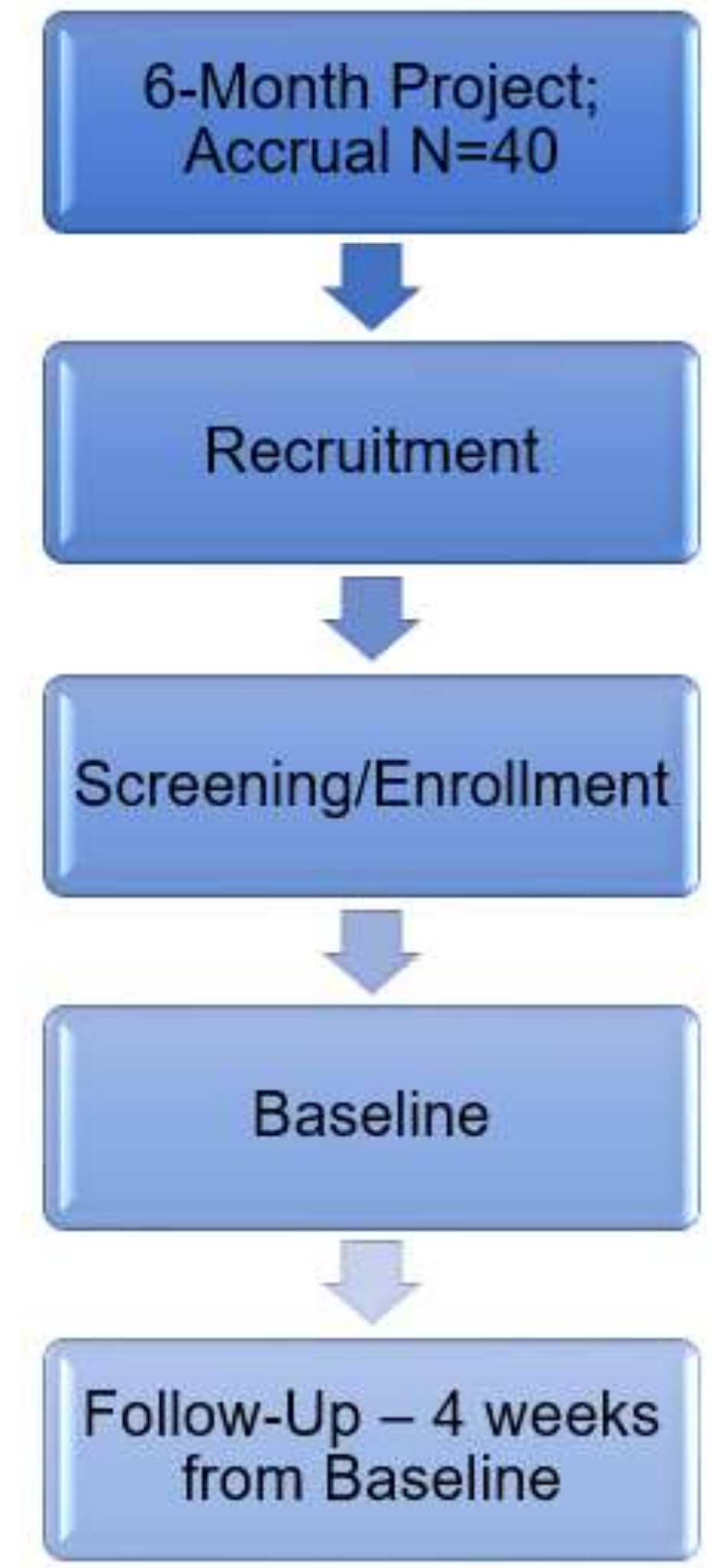


Figure 4. Study design flowchart

Preliminary Unpublished Results

- 13 African American women and 12 Hispanic women completed and mailed back the HPV self-collection kits.
- 12 African American women and 11 Hispanic women performed the test correctly (received a +/- response) as confirmed by EverlyWell.
- 13 African American women and 10 Hispanic women completed the study.

Conclusions

Human papilloma virus (HPV) self-collection kits resulted in an efficient, cost-effective, and convenient screening method. Using the self-collection technique, women could avoid the fear of multiple pelvic exams required for Pap testing.

New cervical cancer screening strategies have been proven to be more effective than cytology screening. Education, counseling and navigation are good determinants to encourage cervical cancer screening.

This study examined and demonstrated the feasibility of conducting an education intervention trial regarding cervical cancer screening employing HPV self-collection kits among African American and Hispanic women.

Acknowledgments

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