

Mammography Screening among Underserved Brazilian Women: A Community-Based Intervention

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Objectives

- ✓ We first explored the sociocultural factors associated with breast cancer screening among underserved women 50 years of age and older in a southern region of Brazil through a theory-based (Health Belief Model) and culturally-relevant qualitative and quantitative approach. These findings guided intervention and feasibility testing
- ✓ The intervention was developed in conjunction with community partners, including the health care system and a community-based organization

Intervention

- ✓ Home visits by Community Health Workers (CHWs) to women between the ages of 50 and 69 who have not had a mammography within the past year
 - ✓ CHW + Psychology Student
 - ✓ CHW + breast cancer survivor
 - ✓ Control
- ✓ Health care system restructured their services to eliminate structural barriers, particularly the waiting time
- ✓ We trained CHWs and breast cancer survivors in a cognitive-behavioral approach to address intrapersonal barriers.

Comparisons – Interventions Vs. Control

% Women who scheduled/had a mammography (N=300)

Groups	% Had a Mammography	% Scheduled a Mammography
CHW + Psychology Student	52/148= 35%	44%
CHW + Breast Cancer Survivor	61/149= 41%	72.5% P<.0001
Control	74/244= 30%	--

Comparisons among Women Who Had a Mammography
Intervention (CHW+Psy Student & CHW + Survivor X control – p=.04
CHW + Breast Cancer Survivor X control – p=.02
CHW + Psychology Student X control – p=.25 (NS)
CHW + Students X CHW + Breast Cancer Survivor – p=.30 (NS)

Within Comparisons B/e Women who were Visited and the Ones Who Were Not

% Women Who Had a Mammography

Health Unit	Women Who Were Visited	Women Who Were Not Visited	P value
A (CHW+Psy)	77/365= 20%	21/55= 38%	p<.001
B (CHW + Psy)	56/544= 10%	31/93= 33%	P<.001
C (CHW + Surv)	62/196= 31%	36/84= 42%	p=.07
D (CHW + Surv)	54/153= 35%	25/65= 38%	p= .66
Control	74/244= 30%	--	

Conclusion

- ✓ Importance of extensive assessments prior to intervention development
- ✓ Importance of appropriately training CHWs and breast cancer survivors in a tailored cognitive-behavioral approach
- ✓ The combination of door-to-door visits by a CHW and breast cancer survivor seems to be the most efficacious approach to promote mammography among underserved, unscreened Brazilian women

Future Directions

- ✓ Conduct a larger randomized trial to confirm obtained results
- ✓ Add a visit between scheduling the mammography and the date of the exam
- ✓ Positive reinforcement of women who got their mammography to promote maintenance of this behavior