Hmong American Women Pap Test Awareness and Involvement: Implications for Health Education in the Hmong American Community

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*From this study, we found that the prevalence of Pap test among Hmong American women (59.1%) is lower than that for other American women (82.8%).

*SES, especially level of education, played an important part in determining whether or not Hmong American women have taken the Pap test and have knowledge of Pap test, though multinomial regression did not suggest family income level was a statistically significant factor.

*The following implication and recommendations were drawn from the study results:

1. Educate Hmong American women based on their educational levels. Focus on the group that has less than a college education (education less than 14 years).

2. Introduce different ways to access the Pap test to populations with different income levels (health insurance issue).Health educators might put more attention on Hmong American women who have family income less than $45,000 and with no health insurance.

3. Pay attention to the new immigrant group. New immigrants who have lived in the US less than 18 years have a statistically significant lower prevalence of Pap test experience.

4. Have those who work with Hmong women take into consideration their different religious views and health beliefs.

5. Recommendation for health care providers. Hmong American women will be encouraged to have the Pap test if the purpose and process is explained in detail. Having an interpreter in this process will be appropriate and helpful. To create a study of the Hmong community, cultural sensitivity is a major concern. To be culturally sensitive and respectful of their culture, a pilot survey is recommended prior to the survey section.

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