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Cancer Control Intervention with PAP Screening in North American Chinese Women: The Vancouver Experience

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A four phase collaborative study is underway in Vancouver and Seattle in order to design, implement and evaluate a cancer control intervention for Pap screening targeting less acculturated ethnic Chinese women. As part of this initiative, a target of 750 randomly selected Chinese women are being personally interviewed in each city by trained interviewers fluent in Cantonese or Mandarin, and English, using a structured questionnaire developed largely from earlier qualitative interviews. The following interim results are based upon the responses of the first 424 interviews in the Vancouver area. The age of respondents ranged from 20 to 79 years (mean 49.1 years), the proportion of life resident in North America by quartile being 0-13%, 14-26%, 27-43% and 44-100%. Respondents were born in Mainland China (51%), Hong Kong (33%), South East Asia (5%), Taiwan (4%), North America (2%) and other (4%). The reported pap screening rates in the last 2 years were 56%, 68% and 26% for ages 20-39 years, 40-59 years and 60-79 years, respectively (overall 54%). The corresponding rates for ever having had a pap smear were 71%, 86% and 57%, respectively (overall 75%). The following demographic factors were associated with having a pap smear in the last 2 years: age ($p=0.001$), place of birth ($p=0.004$), marital status ($p=0.001$), income ($p=0.002$), type of housing ($p=0.005$), and fluent in English ($p=0.04$). Proportion of life in North America ($p=0.06$) was of borderline significance, whereas religion ($p=0.45$) and education ($p=0.12$) were not associated with screening in the last 2 years. All of the above significant associations were also found for ever having had a pap smear except for fluent in English ($p=0.06$); in addition proportion of life in North America ($p=0.008$) and education ($p=0.02$) were associated with ever having had a pap smear. These findings will be discussed.

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