

# Acceptability & usability of a device for self-collected sampling for HPV testing among African American women in the Mississippi Delta

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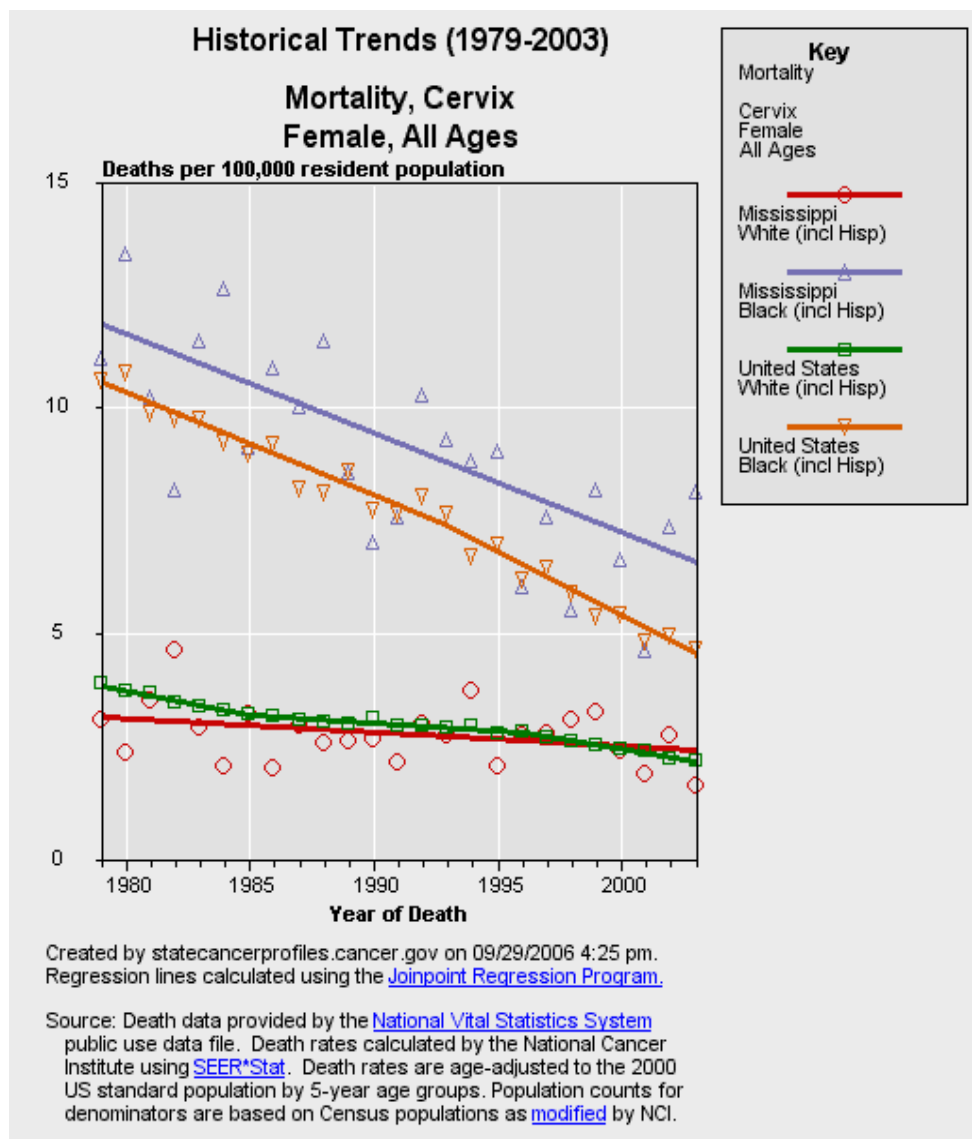
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Deep South Network for Cancer Control

# Why African Americans in the Mississippi Delta?



# Background

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- ✓ It has been established that HPV is a causal agent of cervical cancer and that HPV infection is present in 99.7% of cervical carcinomas
- ✓ HPV testing could be the most effective approach to early detection of cervical cancer
- ✓ HPV DNA testing has been approved by the FDA

# Background

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- ✓ Studies have suggested that HPV testing may be more effective than Pap Smear in early detection of cervical cancer given its high sensitivity and reliability
- ✓ Previous studies have examined the sensitivity and predictive value of HPV detection by comparing self-collected and clinician-collected samples for HPV testing with encouraging results

# Background

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- ✓ Current technology (Hybrid Capture 2) – sensitivity and specificity issues
- ✓ Castle and colleagues at NCI are making an attempt to improve the DNA sampling technology (AMPLICOR)
  - ✓ Pap Smear
  - ✓ Clinician-collected sampling for HPV testing
  - ✓ Self-collected sampling for HPV testing at home



# Why is a Behavioral Scientist involved in this study?

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- ✓ The public health benefits of such technology will only be attained if the approach is **accepted** and **adopted** by at-risk populations.
- ✓ Some studies have examined acceptability of self-collected sampling for HPV testing. However...
  - ✓ Self-collected sampling was obtained at the doctor's office
  - ✓ Women were recruited at clinics (perhaps a compliant group in terms of cervical cancer screening)
  - ✓ Limited findings on factors associated with acceptability
  - ✓ Lack of theory-based assessments
  - ✓ To our knowledge, no studies have involved the target audience in the development of the self-collection device and approach

# Preliminary Work

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- ✓ Discussion groups with Community Health Advisors on the best strategies
- ✓ Focus groups with 87 African American women 30 years of age and older
  - ✓ 30 women attending public primary care clinics for a routine Pap smear
  - ✓ 57 women who reported not having a had a Pap smear in the past three years recruited in the

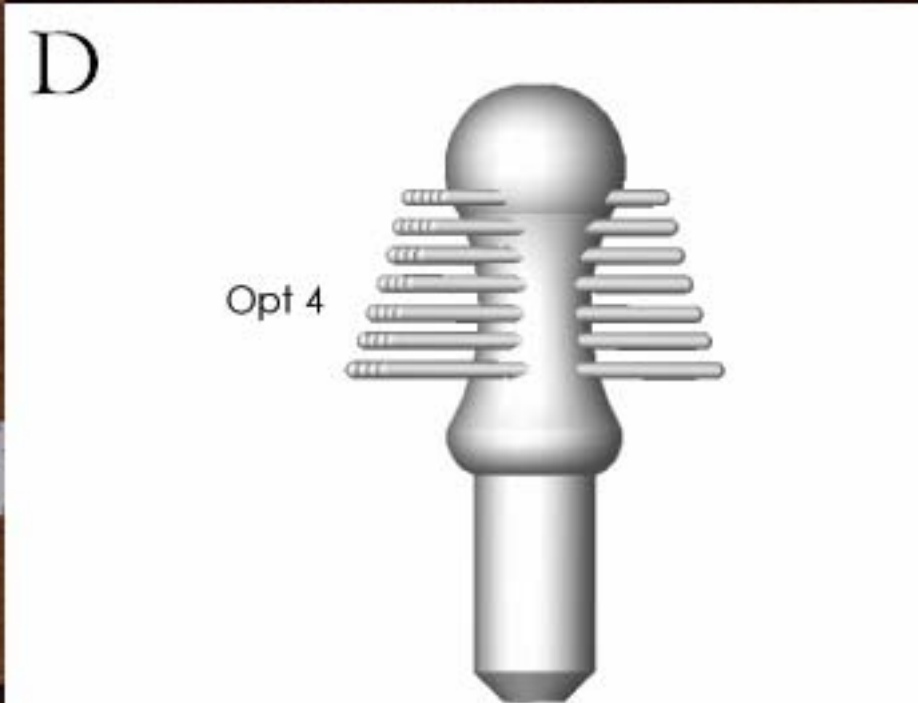


# Goal

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- ✓ To examine the usability of a self-collected sampling for HPV testing device among nine African American women 30 years of age and older in the Mississippi Delta





# Discussion Groups - Session 1

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- ✓ Education about cervical cancer and HPV
- ✓ Detailed instructions on how to use the device by someone who had used the device
- ✓ Opportunity to handle the device during the session, and ask questions
- ✓ Distribution of kits with reminder card for next group, written instructions, and phone number in case they had questions or experienced any problems when trying the device at home

# Session 2 – Feedback on usability

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- ✓ 62.5% of participants had heard about HPV prior to their participation in the group
- ✓ 100% of participants reported that it was easy to use and they did not encounter any difficulties
- ✓ Only one participant experienced some discomfort – she pushed too far
- ✓ Written instructions were very helpful – Participants referred to the brochure while inserting the device

# Session 2 – Feedback on usability

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- ✓ Participants expressed that the explanation by a female who used the device and having the opportunity to “play” with it while the instructor was present to answer questions were very helpful
- ✓ They suggested having a short video to take home with instructions, if an in-person explanation is not possible. However, they prefer the “in-person” explanation by a woman who had used the device
- ✓ They had some concerns on whether they did it right

# Results – Preference

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- ✓ The opinions were divided regarding preference (Pap smear vs. self-collected sampling for HPV testing). While some preferred the Pap, others preferred the self-collected sampling. Others expressed that they would do both
- ✓ Self-collected sampling: More convenient and one can do it in the privacy of her home
- ✓ Pap smear: “The doctor’s exam is more accurate” and “I still want to get my yearly examination”

# Conclusions

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- ✓ African American women 30 years of age and older in the Mississippi Delta were receptive to self-collected sampling for HPV testing at home
- ✓ They were divided with regard to preference for a Pap Smear and self-collected sampling for HPV testing
- ✓ This study shows the importance of getting the target audience in the development of a technology

