To date we have enrolled 284 Latinas into the study of which 153 (54%) are Cubans and 131 (46%) are non-Cuban Latinas.

As shown in Table 1, Cuban women were younger, had arrived to the US more recently, had higher educational attainment, and had higher health literacy than non-Cuban women. The majority of Cuban women (70%) preferred HPV self-sampling citing familiarity with home based vaginal sampling in Cuba and preferences for health services that were free as main reason for choosing HPV self-sampling. In contrast, only 30% of non-Cuban women chose the HPV self-sampling expressing preference for the traditional Pap smear.

**RESULTS**

### Qualitative Feedback

#### 1. Cubans:

**Knowledge:** Cuban women seem to have a good understanding of the women's reproductive system and have no problem identifying the organs by its correct names. They are comfortable using the self-sampling method by themselves after a short introduction and education.

Prior experience with similar vaginal based sampling: Many women have had a similar test done in Cuba. “I've done it before and it's very easy. El exsudado, is done by a nurse in Cuba of the cervix or from the cervix.”

HPV was offered at no additional cost: “I would rather do the self sampling test because right now I can't pay for the Pap test. I really need if I get this. ‘Lo pruebas’ as they call it.”

#### 2. Non Cubans:

**Knowledge:** Women from Mexico and Central America very often did not have a clear understanding of the reproductive system or had the functions, names and organs confused.

Cultural Barriers/ Fear of test: "I don't want to do that test. I don't like blood and I can't tolerate it.“ Having a short introduction and education.

"Access to care: "In my country, I would go to the local clinic, but here since I don't have insurance and it's so expensive, I can't do it." With willingness to pay the small co-payments at the FQHCs.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. Cuban women have higher educational attainment, greater health literacy and knowledge and familiarity with cervical cancer screening which increases their willingness to have HPV self-sampling. The small co-payment for a Pap smear also led many to choose the HPV test.

2. Among non-Cubans, cultural factors, limited access to care and greater willingness to pay for low costs health care services were major reasons why many preferred the more traditional Pap smear.

This study again highlights major differences in health knowledge and behaviors among different Latina subgroups. It also emphasizes the need for community based health programs to be tailored to the specific needs and practices of distinct Latino communities.