

## Abstract

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### **Cervical Cancer Screening Trends at a Free Clinic for the Uninsured in Providence, Rhode Island**

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**Issue:**Hispanic women have the highest rate of cervical cancer in the U.S. and higher mortality from cervical cancer compared to Whites. Poor outcomes have been partially attributed to lower screening rates and poor follow-up for abnormal screening results in this population.

**Description:** Access to women's health services for uninsured and immigrant populations in Rhode Island (RI) is limited to non-profit, volunteer-run clinics and subsidized hospital charity care. In 2015, Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic (CEHC) partnered with medical trainees to meet the needs of uninsured Hispanic women and continues to operate as one of a few free women's clinic in RI.

**Lessons Learned:** A random review of 75 charts of 21-to 65-year-old women presenting to CEHC between 2015 and 2017 for non-gynecologic visits was performed to assess adherence to USPSTF cervical cancer screening guidelines. A secondary review of screening results from women who presented for gynecologic visits was also performed to determine disease burden. During the study period, 918 women presented for non-gynecological visits, 220 for gynecologic visits, and 196 for pap smears. For gynecologic-specific visits, 119 pap smears were performed with only 18 abnormal results, most of which were Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance. A random review of 75 women revealed 40-62% adherence to cervical cancer screening guidelines. Challenges include limited access to gynecologic visits for pap smears, patient scheduling conflicts, and difficulty contacting patients overdue for pap smears.

**Recommendations:** The observed trends in cervical cancer screening suggest that barriers to accessing gynecological care in this population should be explored.

Administer health education strategies, interventions and programs  
Basic medical science applied in public health  
Biostatistics, economics  
Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs  
Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs  
Systems thinking models (conceptual and theoretical models), applications related to public health

