

Running Head: CERVICAL CANCER SURVEY

Cervical Cancer Survey

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Cervical Cancer Survey

Research Question

During this group's literature review, it became apparent that, although research has been done on the social causes and contributions to cervical cancer among Vietnamese women, the research has been lacking as far as what issues surround early detection for younger Vietnamese women. Our group decided to research what larger issues contribute to or convert to risk factors within the local, female, and under thirty years of age Vietnamese population.

Survey Instrument

In order to determine the answers to this question, we published a survey through Survey Monkey, at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eGbIwg4b1d3_2fgrNPwNFTPQ_3d_3d. This survey contained questions about basic demographics, in order to isolate the correct population, such as age, education, and ethnic group, and questions through which we hoped to expose risk factors. The questions asked whether or not participants had health insurance, whether or not they see a primary care doctor regularly, whether or not they have a gynecologist or discuss gynecological issues with their primary care doctor, whether or not their doctor speaks to them in the language they prefer, whether or not they have annual PAPs to test for cervical cancer, whether or not they are educated about cervical cancer and what causes it, whether or not anyone in their family has had cervical cancer or an abnormal PAP, whether they are sexually active and how many partners they have, and whether or not they are in a committed relationship. We received sixteen responses, all of whom were in our priority population.

Please review the data graphically below. Each question is presented as a pie chart. A summary will be provided at the end of the report.

Data Summary through Pie Charts

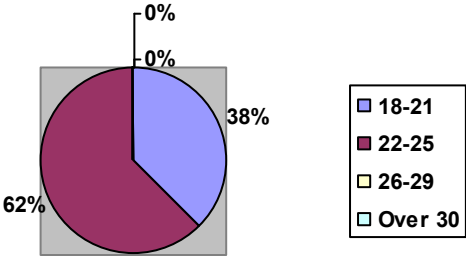


Figure 1: Age Distribution

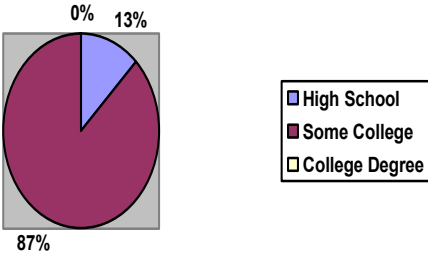


Figure 2: Education Level

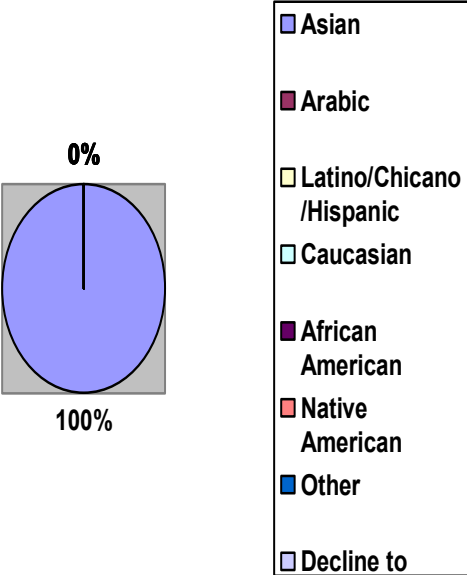


Figure 3: Ethnic Distribution

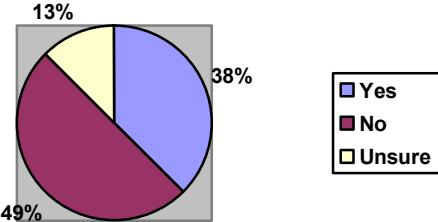


Figure 4: Health Insurance?

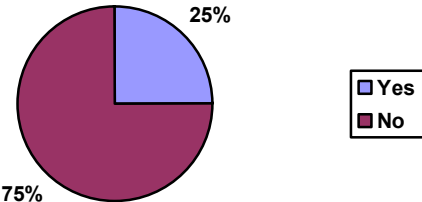


Figure 5: See a Primary Care Doctor Regularly?

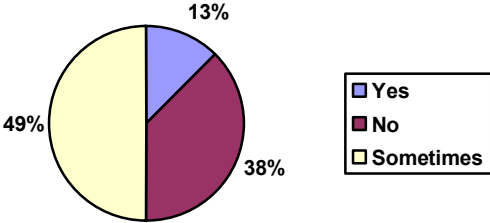


Figure 6: Does PCP or GYN Discuss GYN Issues?

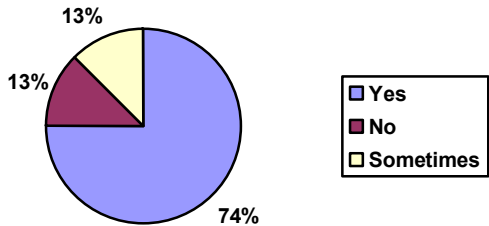


Figure 7: Does Doctor Use Language You Prefer?

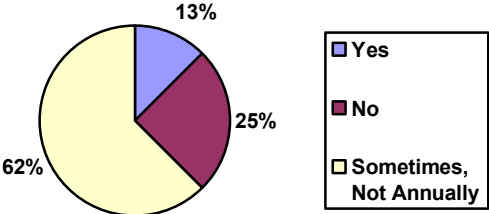


Figure 8: Annual PAPs?

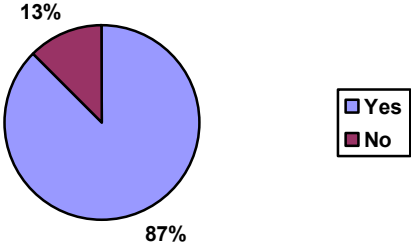


Figure 9: Educated about Cervical Cancer & Causes?

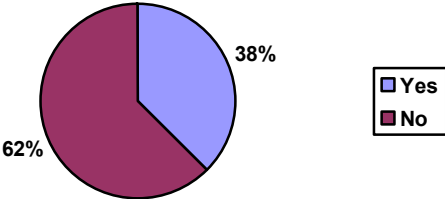


Figure 10: Anyone in Family had Cervical Cancer or Abnormal PAP?

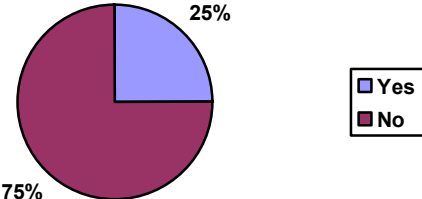


Figure 11: Do You Smoke?

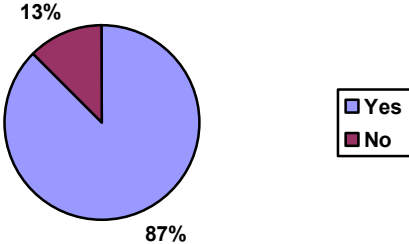


Figure 12: Sexually Active?

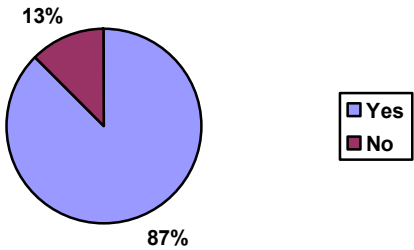


Figure 13: In A Committed Relationship?

Responses for reasons why respondents did not have health insurance included unable to afford health insurance, hidden charges, not enough time, too far from doctor, no health insurance available through current employer, and satisfied using community clinics.

Data Summary Through Cross Tabulation

Please see below for further graphical exploration of data, broken down by whether or not the respondent had health insurance.

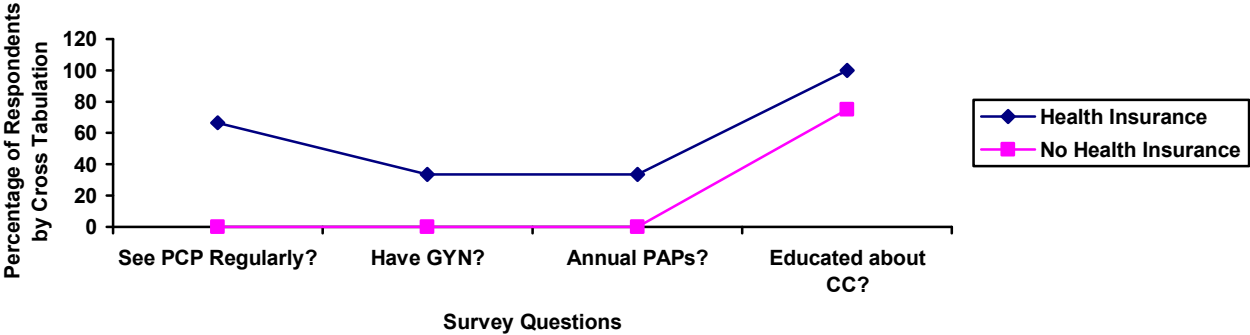


Figure 14: Effects of Having/Not Having Health Insurance

The data, when cross tabulated in this way, demonstrates an association between having health insurance and being more educated and more prepared to deal with the issue of cervical cancer in this population.

Summary of Data Collected

The survey we conducted, while having too few respondents to truly make any realistic extrapolations, does point to some important connections. All of the respondents were from the priority population (young Vietnamese women in the local area). Almost all of our correspondents were both sexually active (with one partner) and in a committed relationship, so having multiple sex partners and/or not being in a relationship was omitted from a list of possible risk factors. The majority of our respondents did not smoke and were educated about cervical cancer and its causes, so that eliminates two other major risk factors. However, the data shows that there is a distinct presence of this disease in this community, as 38% of the respondents had a family member who either had an abnormal PAP or actually had cervical cancer. Genetics may play a key role in this issue for this community.

The risk factor which seemed to have the most association with other risk factors was that of not having health insurance. Respondents who did not have health insurance, as shown above in Figure 14, saw a primary care doctor less frequently, discussed gynecological issues with a doctor less frequently, had PAP tests less often (if at all), and were less educated about cervical cancer and its causes than the respondents who had health insurance. For comparison purposes, we left out the respondents who were unsure whether or not they had health insurance.

In conducting this survey, the research question at hand was what larger issues contribute to or convert to risk factors within this very specific population. This survey, although limited in scope, has identified two important risk factors: genetics, which is difficult to develop interventions for, and a lack of health insurance, which is something that can and should change. This research group looks forward to seeing positive changes in this area which will increase

understanding of, access to, and use of preventative medicine for all chronic diseases, not just cervical cancer.