



Summary of Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation*

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends interventions that engage community health workers to increase screening for cervical cancer by Pap smear. Economic evidence shows these interventions are cost-effective.

The CPSTF also recommends interventions that engage community health workers for breast and colorectal cancer screening.

Major Findings*

The CPSTF recommendation is based on evidence from a systematic review of 66 studies (search period through July 2017). Included studies evaluated intervention effects on breast (36 studies), cervical (29 studies), or colorectal (17 studies) cancer screening use.

- Interventions that engaged community health workers, independently or as part of a team, increased cervical cancer screening by a median of 12.8 percentage points when compared with no intervention or usual care (27 studies).
Interventions that aimed to both increase community demand of, and improve access to, screening services reported the largest increases in screening rates (22 studies across breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening).
A systematic review of economic evidence found interventions engaging community health workers to increase demand and access to cervical cancer screening are cost-effective.

Interventions that engage community health workers to increase cervical cancer screening are typically implemented in underserved communities to improve health and can enhance health equity.

What are Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers?*

Intervention approaches that engage community health workers to increase cervical cancer screening implement one or more intervention approaches reviewed by the CPSTF. These approaches are divided into two strategies: increasing demand for, and improving community access to, cancer screening.



Cancer Screening Intervention by Strategy

Table with 2 columns: Increase Community Demand and Increase Community Access. Under Demand: Group Education, One-on-one Education, Client Reminders, Small Media. Under Access: Interventions to Reduce Structural Barriers (Reducing Administrative Barriers, Assisting with Appointment Scheduling, Providing Transportation, Providing Language Translation, Providing Child Care).

Facts about Cervical Cancer

- In 2016, nearly 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer were reported, and more than 4,000 women died.¹
- While cervical cancer used to be the leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, the number of cases and the number of deaths from cervical cancer have decreased significantly over the past 40 years. This decline is the result of many women getting regular Pap tests, which can find cervical precancer before it turns into cancer.²



Learn More

***Read a complete summary of the systematic review and CPSTF Finding**

www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-cervical-cancer

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm>

National Cancer Institute, Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T.

<https://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/planet/>

¹U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on November 2018 submission data (1999-2016); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; June 2019. Retrieved from: www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz.

²National Institutes of Health. Cervical Cancer. NIH Consensus Statement 1996;14(1):1-38.

Established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) is an independent, nonfederal panel of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the director of CDC. The CPSTF provides information for a wide range of decision makers on programs, services, and other interventions aimed at improving population health. Although CDC provides administrative, scientific, and technical support for the CPSTF, the recommendations developed are those of the CPSTF and do not undergo review or approval by CDC. Find more information at www.thecommunityguide.org.

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