

## NAPCRG 52nd Annual Meeting — Abstracts of Completed Research 2024.

**Submission Id:** 6115

### **Title**

*Breaking down barriers: How the HPV self-swab testing can improve cervical cancer screening accessibility*

### **Priority 1 (Research Category)**

Screening, prevention, and health promotion

### **Presenters**

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### **Abstract**

**Context:** Cervical cancer disproportionately affects Black and Latinx women in Chicago. Black and Latinx women have higher incidence of cervical cancer diagnosis and lower rates of cervical cancer screening than non-Latinx White women. Self-collected high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) testing has been proposed as a method to address these barriers to screening and prevent cervical cancer. However, it is critical to understand the local context to ensure high uptake of self-collected HPV testing.

**Objective:** To understand the feasibility and acceptability of self-collected HPV testing as a novel approach to address barriers to cervical cancer screening for Black and Latinx women in Chicago.

**Study Design and Analysis:** Semi-structured interviews with Black and Latinx women were conducted. Thematic analysis using inductive and deductive coding was completed.

**Setting and Population Studied:** Self-identified Black and Latinx women who lived in the Chicago area.

**Results:** 17 women were interviewed. The participants self-identified as Black (n=9), Latinx/Hispanic/Latine (n=7) or “Other” (n=1). The respondents’ ages ranged from 25 to 63, with a median age of 37. Findings from qualitative interviews indicate strong support for self-collected HPV testing among community members. Participants expressed a preference for self-collected HPV testing due to the comfort, control, and reduced anxiety it offers. Financial constraints, prioritization of other life demands, and past trauma were identified as significant barriers to traditional cervical screening.

**Conclusion:** Self-collected HPV testing could address barriers to cervical cancer screening by providing a less-invasive, patient-centered alternative to traditional methods. Self-collected HPV testing should be made accessible, financially affordable, and be covered by health insurance.

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