

ABSTRACT

FACTORS AFFECTING LAOTIAN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN BREAST CANCER SCREENING

This study is part of the Promoting Access to Health for Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian Women project, formed in 1999 as part of the REACH 2010 project. The study utilizes a quasi-experimental design, involving an intervention group and a comparison group. From December 2002 to March 2003, 360 convenience sample surveys were collected among Laotian women aged 35 and older residing in southern and northern California. It was concluded that the overall screening rates for Laotian women are low as compared to the U.S. goal. Laotian women's screening rates are 60% for mammogram, 77% for clinical breast examination, and 65% for breast self-examination. Not having a regular medical doctor (MD) hinders screening rates, having a female MD indicates higher screening rates for comparison group, and feeling comfortable with an MD also indicates higher screening rates.

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