

## ABSTRACT

### KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, HEALTH BELIEFS, AND UTILIZATION OF PREVENTIVE SCREENING PRACTICES AMONG SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND ASIAN INDIAN WOMEN IN FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA REGARDING BREAST CANCER

The purpose of the present study was to determine if Southeast Asian women and Asian Indian women of Fresno County, California, underutilize preventive measures such as breast-self examinations (BSE), clinical breast exams (CBE), and mammograms. The present study identified factors such as attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, and barriers that prevent these two populations of women from practicing BSE, CBE, and mammograms.

The target population in the study was women 18 years or older, residing in Fresno County. The sample size was 135 participants. The Health Belief Model was used, while the data were analyzed using SPSS.

The data revealed that both the SEA and AI women underutilize preventive screening services such as BSE, CBE, and mammograms. The SEA women lack basic knowledge regarding breast cancer. The AI women were more knowledgeable than the SEA women; however, their knowledge was still low in some areas.

Mary Stela Gallegos  
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