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Introduction

- Lake County has one of the highest incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer in Indiana
- Hispanics in Lake County have a disproportionately high cervical cancer incidence rate of 12/100,000, as compared to 9.6/100,000 for African Americans and 7.4/100,000 for Whites (Healthy People 2020).
- Pap smears have historically been the primary method of screening, however HPV self-sampling has been identified as an effective and efficient way of screening for HPV
- There have been nationwide and statewide calls for engaging CHWs and leveraging self-sampling to increase screening uptake
- This project bridges an important gap in the literature by exploring CHW perspectives on the implementation of CHW facilitated self-sampling in their communities

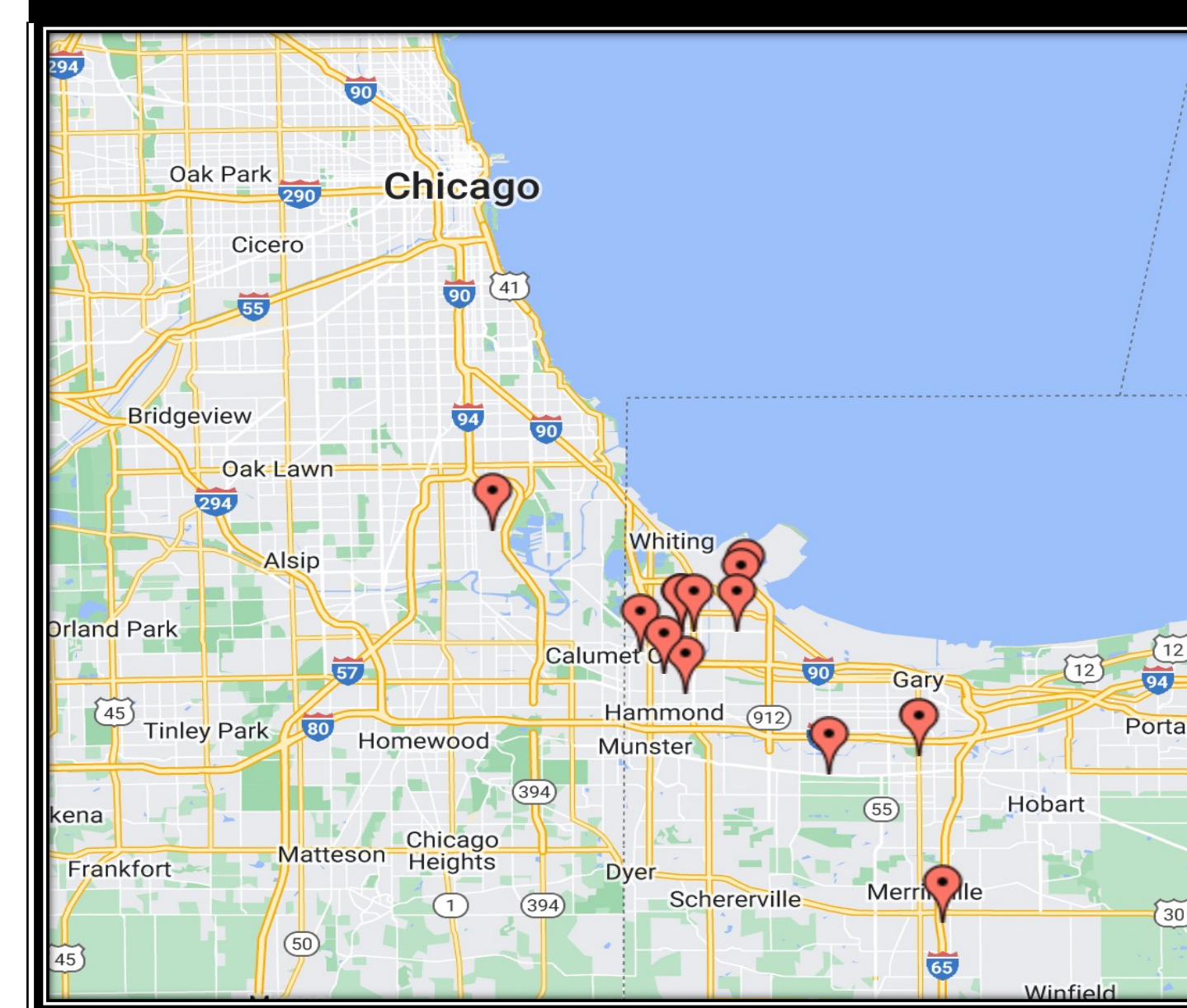
Objectives

1. Assess CHWs perceptions on barriers and facilitators to health care and cervical cancer screening in Hispanic populations
2. Explore CHW perspectives on the anticipated feasibility and acceptability of CHW-facilitated HPV self-sampling as a strategy to increase screening uptake

Methods

- **IRB-2021-1385** - CHWs were recruited through community partners' mailing lists, and were invited to partake in 30-60 minute virtual interviews (with a \$25 gift card incentive).
- From October to November 2021, 15 CHWs from Lake, St. Joseph, LaPorte, and Cook counties were interviewed using an interview guide containing 15 open-ended questions pertaining to their workday, common health concerns and challenges across the Socio-Ecological Model, and their perceptions on self-sampling in their communities.
- A self-developed codebook was used to qualitatively code the interviews using NVivo. The coded transcripts were then analyzed using SEM as a guiding framework.

CHW Locations



Multilevel Barriers to Healthcare and Cervical Cancer Screening



Participant Quote

“We do not have many clinics in this area, it is a healthcare desert in a way...the population we serve, they rely on us, the community clinics.”

Conclusions

- From CHWs perspectives, we found that a CHW-led approach to HPV self-sampling is considered both a highly feasible and acceptable screening innovation.
- Although CHWs identified several implementational challenges, they felt that with the consideration of a few areas of focus for successful implementation, this new screening approach shows promise of improving screening rates and cervical cancer incidence within medically underserved and racially/ethnically minoritized populations.

Anticipated Barriers and Facilitators to Implementation of CHW-led HPV Self-sampling

Barriers & Facilitators	Acceptability	Feasibility
Barriers to CHW-delivered Self-sampling	CHWs' Perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of self-efficacy • Issues gaining community members' trust 	CHWs' Perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of time during the workday
	CHWs' Perceptions of Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns for novelty of the intervention • Trust in provider expertise 	CHWs' Perceptions of Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of physical space in the home • Issues with self-sampling execution and misinterpretation of directions
Facilitators to CHW-delivered Self-sampling	CHWs' Perceptions of Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saves time • Increases patient comfort • Reduces transportation-related barriers • Privacy offered by personal space 	CHWs' Perspectives : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational component offered by CHW's guidance • Leverage existing relationships with community members • Synergies with model of existing work

6 Key Considerations for Future Implementation of HPV Self-sampling

From the Perspectives of CHWs:

1. Provide HPV-screening and cervical cancer knowledge in trainings for CHWs
2. Raise awareness to cervical cancer among community members
3. Underline the importance of informed consent and respect during CHW and community member relationship building
4. Consider gender concordance of CHWs with community members
5. Ensure safety of CHWs in different workspaces
6. Consider context of delivery

Future Work

Future work will explore community members' perspectives on CHW facilitated self-sampling as well as CHW's attitudes following facilitation of HPV self-sampling in the community.

References

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- Carrasquillo, O., Seay, J., Amofah, A., Pierre, L., Alonzo, Y., McCann, S., Gonzalez, M., Trevil, D., Koru-Sengul, T., & Kobetz, E. (2018). HPV Self-Sampling for Cervical Cancer Screening Among Ethnic Minority Women in South Florida: A Randomized Trial. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 33(7), 1077-1083. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-018-4404-z>

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