



UIHI Communication Broadcast

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Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Among Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Women

Cancer is a leading cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in urban Indian health organization (UIHO) service areas and nationwide. Breast and cervical cancer are areas of great concern. While many programs are in place at the national, state and local levels to address cancer screening and prevention, a need for increased screening among urban AI/AN women still exists. Screening data indicate that more urban AI/AN women report having never received a Pap test, mammogram or physical breast exam by a doctor, compared to women of all races living in the same urban areas (Table 1).

Table 1. Breast and cervical cancer screening among adults living in UIHO service areas in the U.S.

Self-reported cancer screening	AI/AN	All Races
Never had a Pap smear test (women ages 18-64 years)	12.7%	7.6%
Never had a mammogram (women ages 40-64 years)	12.1%	8.4%
Never had a physical breast exam by a doctor (women ages 40-64 years)	10.1%	7.9%

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004-2008.

NOTE: Screening questions were only asked in years 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Self-reported screening rates for urban AI/AN women are also available at the regional level, and are reported in a series of regional fact sheets developed by the Urban Indian Health Institute. These, as well as other breast and cervical cancer screening resources and reports are available for download from the UIHI's WEAVING Project website: <http://www.uihi.org/projects/the-weaving-project/>

If you have any questions, please email info@uihi.org.

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