

*This fact sheet summarizes the evaluation and recommendations regarding cervical cancer screening from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (Task Force) in the Community Guide. The Community Guide addresses the effectiveness of client-oriented interventions to address barriers to and promote increased use of Pap tests. State health agencies, particularly in collaboration with their state cancer coalitions, have great potential to diminish the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of cervical cancer by supporting evidence-based interventions to promote screenings for cervical cancer.*

*State health agencies can foster collaboration at the federal, state, and local levels, and support the integration of cancer screening promotion efforts into other programs.*

## **Background Information**

- Cervical cancer is preventable and curable if detected early.
- Pap smear tests are effective in detecting cervical cancer at early states and can reduce cancer deaths when appropriate treatment is provided.
- The 2000 National Health Interview Survey found that 82 percent of women 25 and older had a Pap smear in the previous three years.
- In 2005, it is estimated that approximately 10,000 cervical cancer cases will be diagnosed and nearly 4,000 women will die from cervical cancer.
- Individuals without a regular source of health care, those lacking health insurance, and recent immigrants have the lowest rates of cervical cancer screening in the United States.

## **Interventions recommended with strong evidence**

- Client reminders
  - Review included 10 studies that measured the effect of reminders to people in communities or healthcare systems that they were due or late for a Pap test.
  - Median increase in use of Pap tests by individuals who received reminders was 10.1 percent.
  - Reminders may be in the form of letters, postcards, or telephone calls; their content may be modified to fit relevant client characteristics.
- Multi-component using media, education, and enhanced access
  - Review included 12 studies that measured the impact of 18 multi-component interventions on use of cervical cancer screening.
  - Median increase in screenings for cervical cancer was 19 percent.
  - Providing information about benefits and availability, in conjunction with making services more easily accessible, increases the demand for cervical cancer screening and promotes higher screening rates.

## **Interventions with insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness**

- Reducing structural barriers
- Client incentives with reminders
- Small media
- Reduced out-of-pocket expense
- Group education
- One-on-one education
- Client incentives (alone)
- Mass media (alone)

## **Resources**

- The Guide to Community Preventive Services: [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org)

- ASTHO Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Project: <http://www.astho.org/?template=prevention.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Cancer Prevention and Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm>
- Women in Government's "Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign": <http://www.womeningovernment.org/prevention/>
- American Cancer Society: <http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp>
- National Cancer Institute's Cervical Cancer website: <http://www.nci.nih.gov/cancertopics/types/cervical/>
- Cancer Control Planet: <http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/index.html>

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