

AB032. Factors associated with uptake of cervical cancer screening: a population-based study of 2,305 Chinese females

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Background: Cervical cancer screening is one of the most common cancers amongst females. It is also one of the leading causes of female cancer death globally and in Hong Kong. Cervical cancer screening has been suggested as an effective means to reduce the incidence and mortality rate; however, the uptake rate remains suboptimal in many countries. In 2017, the proportion of Hong Kong women aged 61–64 who registered for the cervical cancer screening programme run by the government was only 22.1%. To provide more insights on enhancing the uptake rate, we explored the association between socio-demographic factors and cervical cancer screening uptake among a Chinese population.

Methods: Data from 2,305 participants were collected through a telephone survey via simple random sampling of

telephone numbers in a territory-wide directory (from 2016 to 2018). Sociodemographic factors (e.g., education level, marital status, occupation status, income level) and health-related factors (e.g., smoking habit, self-perceived health condition) were collected. A binary logistic regression model was constructed to identify the association between the above factors and cervical cancer screening uptake.

Results: Older individuals [66–70 *vs.* 61–65 (referent): adjusted odds ratio (AOR) =0.63, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.50–0.79, P<0.001] and lower level of self-perceived health condition (normal *vs.* very good: AOR =0.54, 95% CI: 0.37–0.79, P<0.001) were less likely to participate. In contrast, higher monthly household income (HKD >20,000 *vs.* HKD ≤10,000: AOR =1.93, 95% CI: 1.46–2.55, P<0.001) and higher level of education (tertiary *vs.* primary: AOR =4.15, 95% CI: 2.64–6.50, P<0.001) were significantly associated with cervical cancer screening.

Conclusions: Policy-makers may develop new strategies, such as education, publicity, and subsidies among these target groups in order to enhance the participation rate of cervical cancer screening. Our findings suggested that age, self-perceived health condition, household income, and education level were associated with uptake of cervical cancer screening. Future studies may identify effective strategies to increase its uptake rate.

Keywords: Screening; cervical cancer; Hong Kong

Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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doi: 10.21037/jphe-21-ab032

Cite this abstract as: Huang J, Ngai CH, Tin MS, Lok V, Liu X, Zhang L, Yuan J, Xu W, Zheng ZJ, Wong M. Factors associated with uptake of cervical cancer screening: a population-based study of 2,305 Chinese females. *J Public Health Emerg* 2021;5:AB032.