

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

EDUCATION FOR PACIFIC ISLANDER WOMEN TO ADDRESS CERVICAL CANCER
DISPARITIES AMONG THE POPULATION

by
Jessica Howard Mack

A project submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice
in the Discipline of Family Nurse Practitioner

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A PROJECT

APPROVED FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

By DNP Project Committee

Angela Dotson, Chair
Sarah McAuliff

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PREVIEW

ABSTRACT

Jessica Howard Mack (Doctor of Nursing Practice in Family Nurse Practitioner)

Education for Pacific Islander Women to Address Cervical Cancer Disparities Among the Population

Directed by Dr. Angela Dotson, DNP

32 pp., Chapter 4: Conclusion

(411 words)

Background and Significance: Pacific Islanders (PI) came to the United States (U.S.) under a series of treaties known as the Compact of Free Association (COFA) negotiated in the 1980s with three Micronesian nations, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, allowing unlimited access to the U.S. Cultural barriers often get in the way of communication with providers since specific topics are considered taboo in discussions in mixed-gender groups, particularly discussions about breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancers (Cassel et al., 2020). PIs have some of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the U.S., which may be related to their belief that specific diagnoses lead to death despite treatment, such as a fatalism towards cancer, which is thought to influence screening practices and treatment adherence (Cassel et al., 2020).

Methods and Interventions: The study is a quality improvement designed to look at the difference between pre- and post-educational knowledge of cervical cancer and attitude toward cervical cancer screening among PI women. The study targets PI women who identify as PI, being a woman, and are 18 years of age or older. Using a Likert scale, Participants were given a

pre-educational survey before being presented with an educational PowerPoint and then given a post-educational survey. An online tool was used to analyze the mean value via the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test to show the area of knowledge gain and change in attitude.

Results: The results of the knowledge survey indicated that the median score for post-education knowledge was higher than the median score for pre-education knowledge. “The results of the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test measuring knowledge indicated that there is a non-significant large difference between before and after (Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test Calculator, n.d.).” The results of the attitude survey indicated that the median score for post-education knowledge was higher than that for pre-education knowledge. “Results of the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test indicated that there is a non-significant small difference between before and after (Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test Calculator, n.d.).”

Conclusion: The results showed an increase in knowledge of disease process, prevention, and screenings, along with a change in attitude towards cervical cancer and screenings after a one-time education. While the change in attitude was not as significant as the change in knowledge, it still showed improvement. This shows a need to increase patient teaching among the population, as the results indicate the population’s receptiveness to learning when presented in an environment that is culturally acceptable.

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PREVIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 1: EDUCATION FOR PACIFIC ISLANDER WOMEN TO ADDRESS CERVICAL CANCER DISPARITIES AMONG THE POPULATION	3
1.1 Background and Significance	3
1.2 Available Knowledge	4
1.3 Rationale	7
1.4 Specific Aims	8
CHAPTER 2: METHODS	9
2.1 Organizational Assessment	9
2.2 SWOT Analysis	10
2.3 Interventions	10
2.4 Study of the Interventions	11
2.5 Measures	12
2.6 Analysis	12
2.7 Ethical Considerations	13
CHAPTER 3: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	14
3.1 Results	14
3.2 Discussion	18
3.3 Interpretation	18
3.4 Limitations	19
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION	20
BIBLIOGRAPHY:	21

APPENDIX A: ONLINE INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA	24
APPENDIX B: SURVEYS	25
APPENDIX C: SOCIAL MEDIA POSTING FOR RECRUITMENT	27
APPENDIX D: SWOT ANALYSIS	28
APPENDIX E: WILCOXON SIGNED-RANK TEST RESULTS: PRE- AND POST-SURVEY KNOWLEDGE	29
APPENDIX F: WILCOXON SIGNED-RANK TEST RESULTS: PRE- AND POST-SURVEY ATTITUDE	31

PREVIEW

LIST OF FIGURES

1	Pre-Education Knowledge Mean Value.....	13
2	Pre-Education Attitude Mean Value	13
3	Post-Education Knowledge Mean Value.....	14
4	Post-Education Attitude Mean Value	14
5	Pre- and Post-Educational Knowledge Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test	15
6	Pre- and Post-Educational Attitude Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test.....	16