Hopi Women's Health Program: Community Partnership & Innovation in Cancer Care

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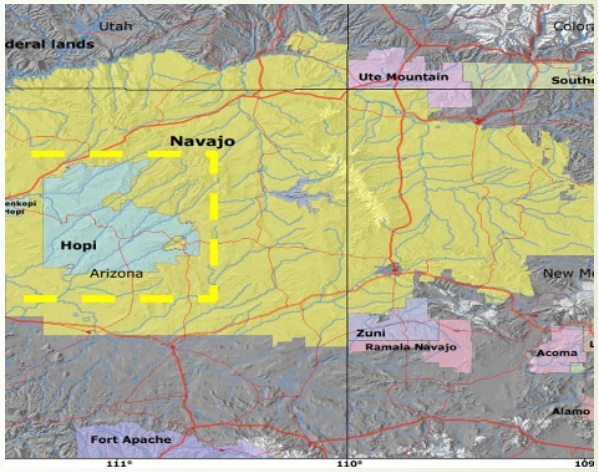
International Indigenous Peoples Navigation Network

Introduction to the Hopi Women's Health Program

- In 1993, a cross-sectional community survey was performed
  - Health Hopi Women Survey
- In 1996, the Hopi Tribe received funding from the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)
- HWHP Mission
  - To respect and value the Hopi and Tewa people by providing services to increase the rate of early detection of cancer and to decrease mortality rates from this disease.

Program Reach & Community Impact

- Hopi Tribe has an enrollment of approximately 14,758*
  - 7,895 currently live on the Hopi and/or on Off-Reservation Trust Land**
  - Over 97% of the population is American Indian Alaska Native**
- About 2,320 households with a median household income of $49,322**
- About 85% of the population have insurance coverage**
  - 15% have no health insurance



* Not all enrolled members are up-to-date according to Hopi Tribe Enrollment Office
** 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates

NBCCEDP Overview

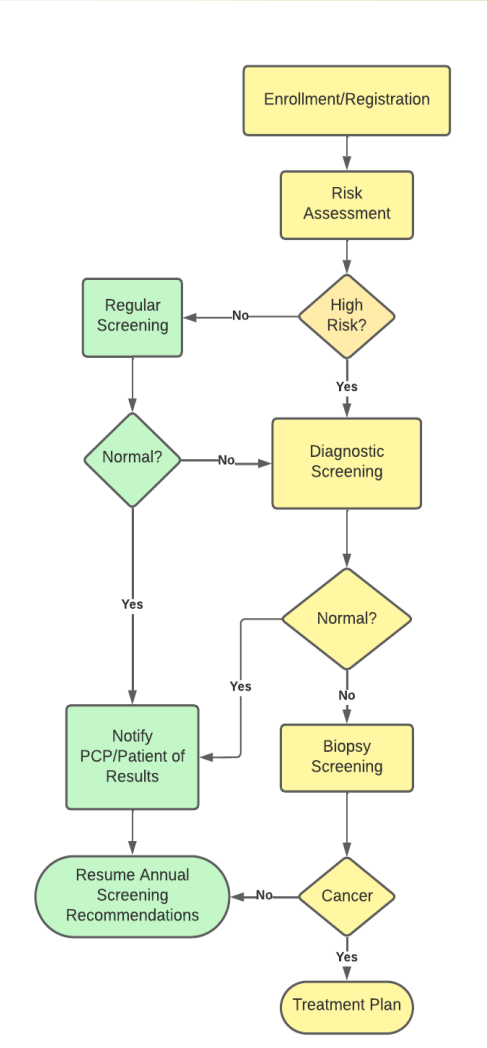
- NBCCEDP Eligibility:
  - Must have an annual household income meeting at or below 250% FPL:
    - $36,450 single person
    - $49,900 for a family of two
    - $62,150 for a family of three
  - Age between the ages:
    - 40-64 for Breast Cancer Screening
    - 21-64 for Cervical Cancer Screening
  - Insurance Status:
    - Intended for women underinsured or uninsured
- Our Goal:
  - Increasing access, education, and support for early cancer detection

Health System Partnerships

- Hopi Health Care Center
  - Primary screening center for Pap tests and clinical breast exams by provider
- Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation
  - Diagnostic follow-up care
  - Treatment and Surgery Consults
- Assured Imaging
  - Mobile mammography service for all HHCC patients.
- Collaborative Organizations and NBCCEDP affiliates
  - Cancer Centers of Northern Arizona Healthcare
  - Navajo Nation Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Role of Navigators

- Our Patient Navigators
  - Assist with assessing barriers to care
  - Provide screening reminders
  - They are CHR workers from the Hopi Community
  - Trained under the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Navigation Curriculum and the George Washington University Patient Navigator Curriculum
- Most useful in the community to health systems linkage component
- Navigator roles are complex and diverse

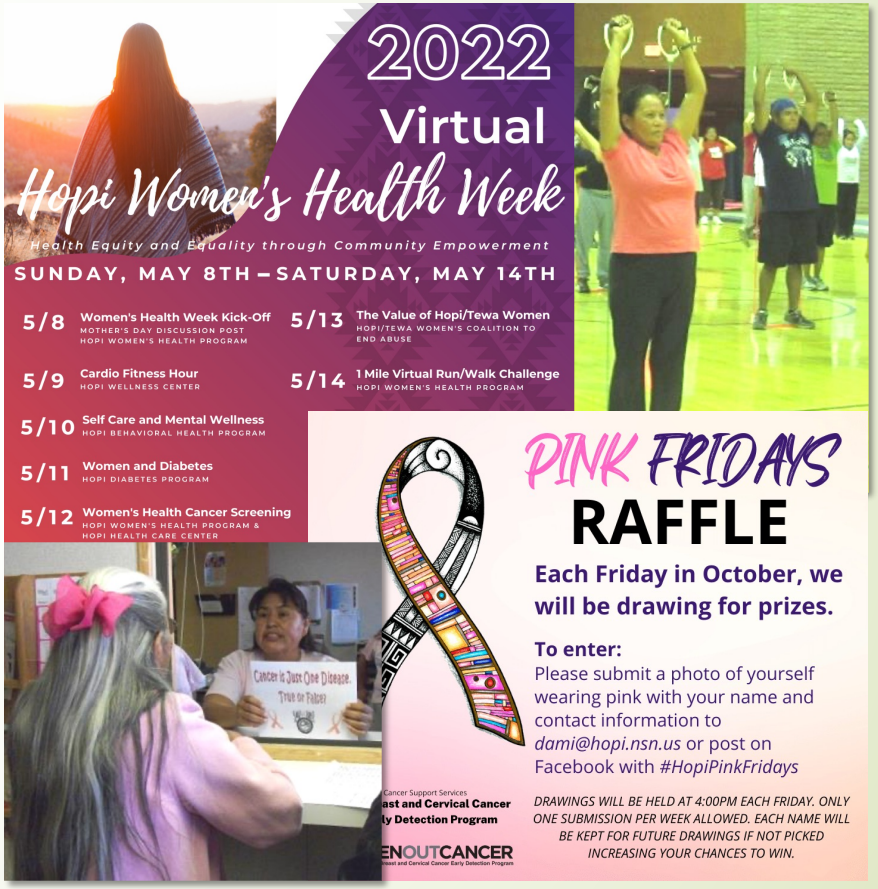


Innovative Approaches within HWHP

- My Health, My Choice:
  - ACS Grant with NAU/UA focusing on cancer screening navigation for Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (IDD) women.
- SolarSpell:
  - An ASU Doctoral Candidate Project that used a solar digital library as a cancer resource database. Future projects will include cancer education for the Hopi communities.
- Holistic Wellness Approach to Cancer and Diabetes
  - A NAU Doctoral Candidate Project that developed a cancer and diabetes wellness curriculum

Community Education & Outreach Efforts

- Pap Rally Events
  - Mother and Daughter event for cervical cancer awareness among teens and young adults
- Immunization Clinics and HPV education
- Pink Night Sporting Events (VB and FB)
- Climb the Mesa 10K
- Girl's Night Out
- Women's Health Week Challenge
- Fitness Fusion Nights (Zumba, HIIT, etc.)



Program Successes & Challenges

- Highlights
  - Breast cancer screening rates nearing pre-pandemic levels
  - Increased collaboration with local, tribal, state, and national institutions
  - More equitable and innovative care for patients
- Challenges
  - Cervical cancer screening rates are lower among 21-35
  - Insurance payment issues and coverage plans
  - More dense breast indicators for <45 year old patients

Future Directions

- Looking to expand outreach efforts on multiple platforms targeting younger adults
- Embracing technology and new tools
- Increasing partnerships with other programs and health systems
- Creating a sustainable funding source for all HCSS programs

Thank you & Contact Information

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