

# Screening Beyond Breast Cancer: Identifying Quality Gaps in Breast Cancer and Cardiovascular Health Literacy in Women in Underserved Communities

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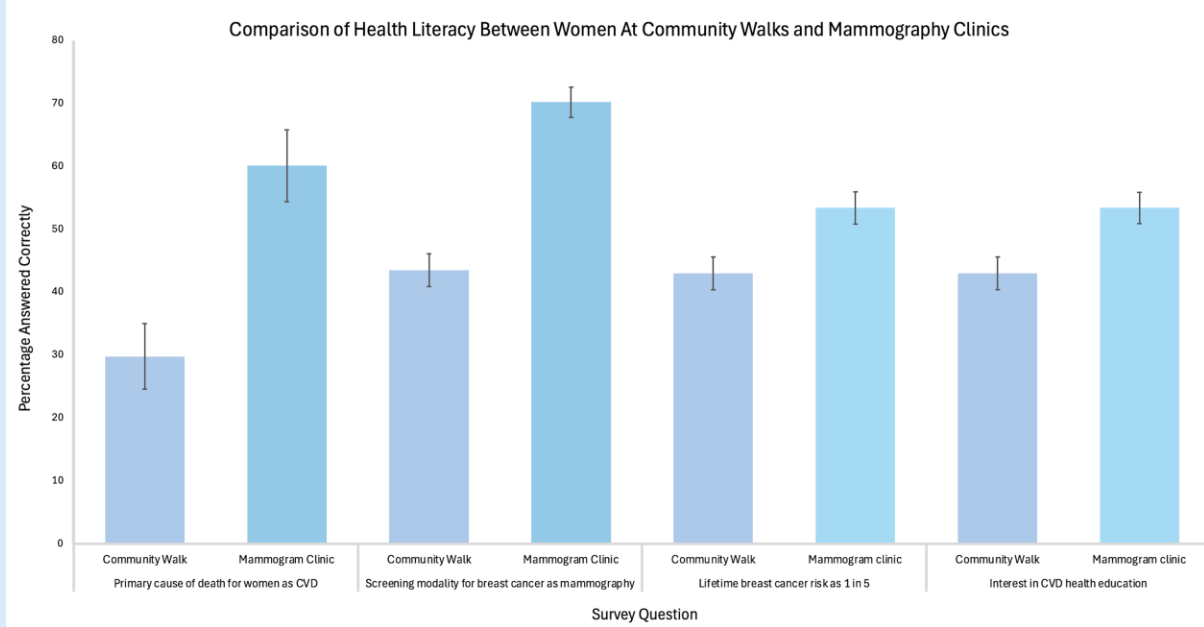
## BACKGROUND

- Mobile mammography units (MMUs) is a breast cancer screening initiative that has reduced adverse health outcomes from breast cancer within underserved communities.
- These populations experience a high burden of comorbid cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- This study aims to identify gaps in breast cancer and CVD health literacy among women from underserved communities compared with women receiving care at hospital-based mammography clinics
- Results from this study guide future quality improvement health education initiatives delivered at MMUs, reducing overall disease burden.

## METHODS

- A standardized, anonymous survey was administered between 2022-2024 to two groups: women attending a) community-based cancer awareness walks in an underserved area b) screening mammography at a hospital clinic
- The survey assessed knowledge of breast cancer and CVD risk factors, causes of morbidity, and interest in receiving education on CVD risk reduction.
- Descriptive statistics and two-sided z-tests compared responses.

The population of women attending mobile mammography units have lower health knowledge of cardiovascular disease and breast cancer, two leading causes of mortality and morbidity in women.



Quality interventions that address cardiovascular health education in addition to breast cancer education within mobile mammography units may reduce overall morbidity and mortality for women in underserved communities

## RESULTS

- 736 surveys - community: 49.3%; clinic: 50.7%
- 29.8% of community participants identified CVD as the leading cause of death amongst women, compared to 60.1% of clinic participants ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- Fewer community participants identified mammography as the most appropriate breast cancer screening modality (43.5% vs. 70.2%,  $p < 0.001$ ).
- Knowledge of lifetime breast cancer risk was lower among community participants (43.0% vs. 53.4%,  $p < 0.01$ ).
- Interest in CVD prevention education during screening visits was higher among community participants (45.2% vs. 36.5%,  $p = 0.02$ ).

## CONCLUSION

- Women surveyed at community-based initiatives demonstrated significantly lower breast cancer and CVD health literacy than women receiving care at hospital mammography clinics, representing a measurable quality gap in preventative health knowledge.
- Increased interest in CVD education among community participants highlights an opportunity to enhance screening mammography encounters with quality interventions that address CVD health education, reducing overall morbidity and mortality in women from underserved communities.



References:

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