

Leveraging Religious Networks to Promote Breast Cancer Screening amongst American Muslim Women

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Objectives

- Candidate Framing
- Present Specific Aims & Outline Projects
 - Feedback
 - Framing of Proposal
 - Wording & Significance of Aims
 - Linking of Aims to Project
- Outline Advisory Group
 - Links to Aims & Project

American Muslims

- Demographically Diverse
 - ~7 million
 - 20-24% Indigenous African American
 - 18-26% South Asian American
 - 24-26% Arab American
- Socio-economically Diverse
 - 65% Foreign-born, 35% Native
 - African Americans: lower socioeconomic strata, hx of racism
 - Arab & South Asians: skilled laborers, business owners

US Muslims & Breast Ca Screening

- 226 Muslim women aged >40 in Cali – 2005
 - 54% had a mammogram in past 2 yrs
 - Irani Muslims had lower rates (47%)
- 39 Muslim women (only 6 >40 yrs)
 - None had a mammogram
 - Only 1 practiced breast self-exam in past yr [32 had heard of it]

Breast CA in Ethnic Groups

- 54 South Asian women in Canada
 - 38.5% had ever had CBE
- 199 South Asian women in CHS
 - 39% had a mammogram in past 2 yrs
- 570 Arab women in MI
 - 68.9% had a mammogram in past 1 yr
- 365 Arab women in MI
 - 58.1% had a mammogram in past 2 yrs

Do Islamic Values and Beliefs Influence Breast Cancer Screening Practices?

Islamic Values

- Modesty (de novo)
- Fatalistic Belief
(adapted 3 measures)

Breast Cancer Screening

- Clinical Breast Exam
- Mammography Rates

254 surveys: 26% African American 33% Arab American & South Asian
75% ever had a mammogram, 80% CBE

Negative Predictor Analyses in Progress

Framing the Candidate

- Career Goal:
 - To become an independent researcher directing a program of community-partnered research that systematically analyzes religious influences upon American Muslim cancer-related health behaviors and employs targeted, religiously-sensitive community and healthcare system-level interventions to improve cancer outcomes

Framing

- Learning activities focused on the intersection of religion, cultural competency (?), community health, and health outcomes (disparities?)
- RWJF CSP
 - Community-based participatory research methods & experiences
 - Religious Beliefs & Values Impact AM Health
 - AM Health Disparities
 - MSc in Health Care Research @ U of M
- Summer Scholar @ Institute for Social Research
 - Honing Qualitative & Survey skill-sets
- Religion & Medicine Summer Intensive @ U of C
 - Knowledge-base for understanding links between religious frameworks and health beliefs and end goals of medical care

Framing

- Do I weave in?
 - Honors Research on Gender Relations in Islam at Cornell- Qatar
 - Resident Research on Physician Attitudes towards healthcare accommodations & on cultural competence/HCD
 - Visiting Fellow at Oxford
 - Theoretical & Applied Islamic bioethics

Specific Aim #1

- Explore how religion informs American Muslim women's health behavior framework with respect to breast cancer screening
 - H1.1 Fatalistic beliefs will be described within a God-centered framework where disease and cure is destined yet be interpreted as both motivating and inhibiting breast cancer screening practices
 - H1.2 Maintaining Modesty will be prominent concern for Muslim women but will not inhibit breast cancer screening
 - H1.3 Perceived discrimination will not feature prominently in women's decisions to obtain breast cancer screening

Specific Aim #2:

- Develop, test and refine Muslim-specific measures of ‘fatalism’ and ‘concern for modesty.’
 - H2.1 Muslim women will generate a multi-valent construct of fatalism that draws upon Islamic theological concepts such as complete reliance on God, predetermination and human responsibility that map onto measures of external locus-of-control as well as onto measures of behavioral agency
 - H2.2 Narratives about modesty will have attitudinal and behavioral components such as believing modesty to be the essential feature of a Muslim woman and of paramount importance, practicing gender segregation during social functions and wearing the Muslim headscarf (hijab).

Specific Aim #3

- Assess the feasibility of, and pilot, a mosque-based and a community-health organization based health intervention to promote breast cancer screening
 - H3.1 A sermon-based intervention aimed at combating fatalistic attitudes towards health will be welcomed by community stakeholders and yield improved self-agency and positive health behavioral intent amongst attendees
 - H3.2 A peer-to-peer lay health educator-based intervention conducted through women's groups at mosques will be viewed as more effective in improving women's breast cancer screening behaviors by community members and will be easier to implement than sermon-based interventions

Project 1

- FGs in Muslim Community
 - Mosque-based (intervention pop)
 - 2 for each major ethnic/racial group [6] & 3 mixed
 - Aims:
 - Reflect on fatalism measures (free response to items)
 - Elicit views on modesty and vis.a.vis health decisions
 - Experiences of religious discrimination vis.a.vis health
 - Reflections on Mosque-based health interventions for breast cancer screening
 - Product
 - Understanding of religious concepts & health framework [Aim 1]
 - Refined constructs for adapting survey measures [Aim 2]

Questions

- Add non-mosque sites?
- Inclusion criteria – never had mammogram?

Project 2

- Feasibility study & pilot of 2 mosque-based interventions [Aim 3]
 - Recall- FGs elicited women's views
 - Phase 1- Community Advisory Group informal interviews +/- Stakeholder Forum
 - Phase 2- Feasibility Assessment at Mosque
 - Sermon development with Imam
 - Lay health worker training with women's group leader
 - Phase 3- Pilot
 - Pre & Post survey assessment of attendees
 - Mosque elder and key personnel evaluation

Questions

- Rigor/Methods for Evaluation

Mentor & Advisory Group

	Funmi	Farr	Mike	Habibul Ahsan	Rick Shweder	Monica
Breast Cancer	XXX			X		X
Religion & Medicine		X				
Behavioral Change	X		X			X
Community Interventions			X			X
Cultural Psychology					X	
Aim 1 (FG)					X	
Aim 2 (measure)		X				
Aim 3 (Intervention)			X			X