ACS Cancer Conference 2025

March 12–14 | Phoenix, AZ

Identifying and Addressing Access Barriers to Screening Mammography in Asian American Populations

[1]Minh Nguyen, BS, MD Candidate, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

[2]Brian Park, MD MPH, Department of Family Medicine, OHSU

[2]Katherine Cavallo Hom, MD, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, OHSU

ACS Cancer Programs

American College of Surgeons

Acknowledgement

Disclosures:

- I have no disclosures.

Acknowledgement:

- Dr. Katherine Cavallo Hom, MD & Dr. Brian Park, MD MPH

Background

- Minoritized women in the US have historically suffered from disproportionate inequities in breast cancer diagnosis and mortality rate.

- Previous studies have shown that Asian American (AA) women currently have the lowest rates of screening mammogram among all racial and ethnic groups.

Purpose

- Primary Objective: Identify current barriers contributing to lower screening mammography rates among Asian American women.

- Secondary Objective: Explore strategies to increase mammography access and utilization (such as patient-centered education presentations, community outreach events, local health fairs, screening days, etc.)

Methods

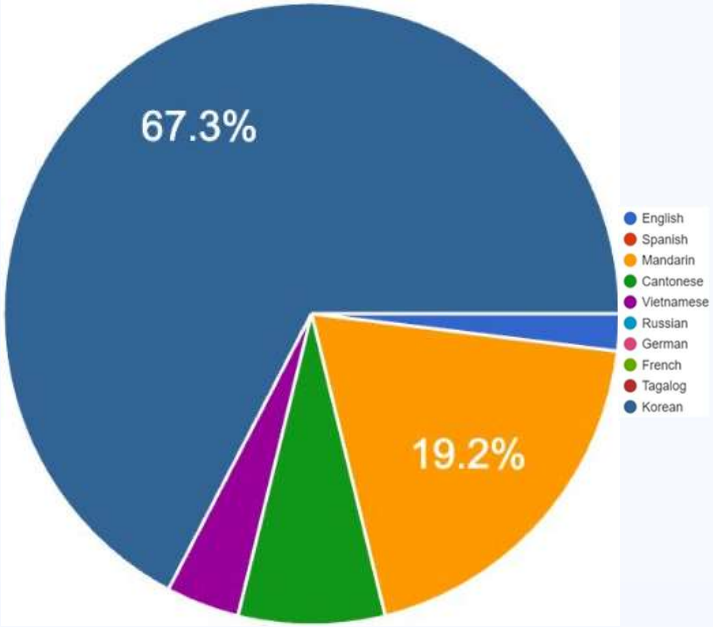
- A series of patient education presentations on breast cancer and screening mammography utilization were conducted.
- A mixed methods study using anonymous surveys was then administered at various community health centers to identify prior experiences with and current barriers to screening mammography.
- Qualitative results identified patient demographics, prior experience with breast cancer screening, and current barriers preventing access to mammogram services.

Results

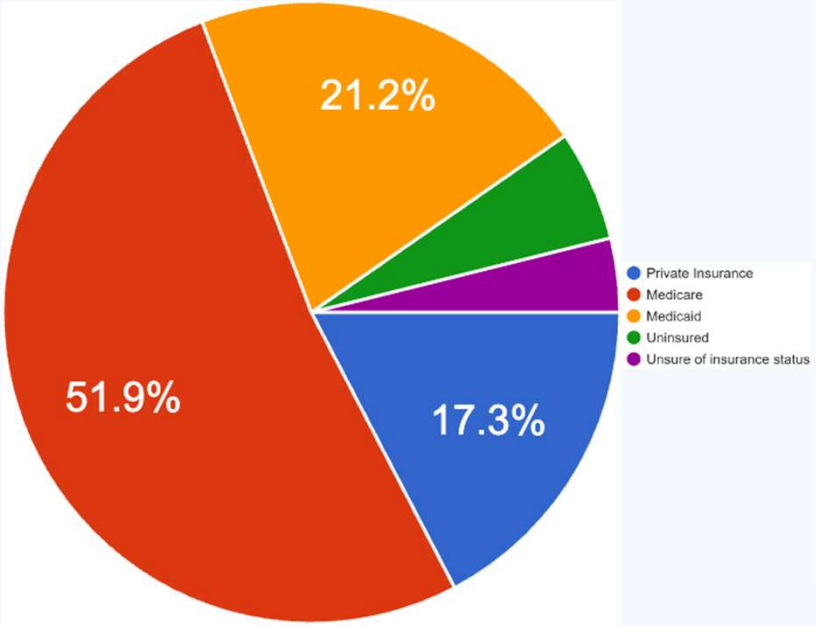
- 73.1% (38 patients) had a previous experience with screening mammography, and 45.2% (19 patients) have encountered barriers when trying to access mammogram services in the past.
- The top 3 barriers faced by AA patients when accessing screening mammograms were: language (65%, 13 patients), cost or financial concerns (50%, 10 patients), difficulty scheduling appointments (40%, 8 patients).
- For patients who have never received a screening mammogram, the top reasons identified were: felt the exam was unnecessary as they were asymptomatic (60%, 14 patients), costs, tied with difficulty scheduling appointments and language barriers (21.7%, 5 patients), lack of insurance coverage, lack of awareness about where to receive mammogram services (tied at 13%, 3 patients).

Results: 52 patients aged 38-89 participated

Demographics Overview: Language & Insurance Status of Participants



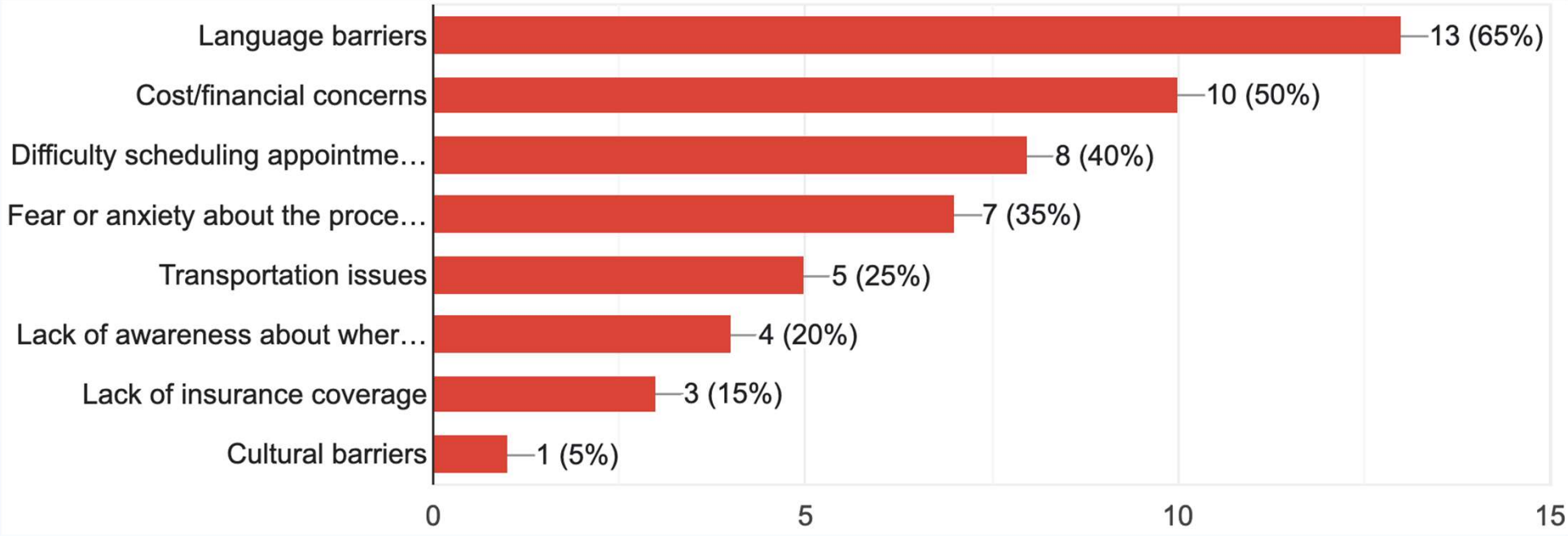
Language



Insurance Status

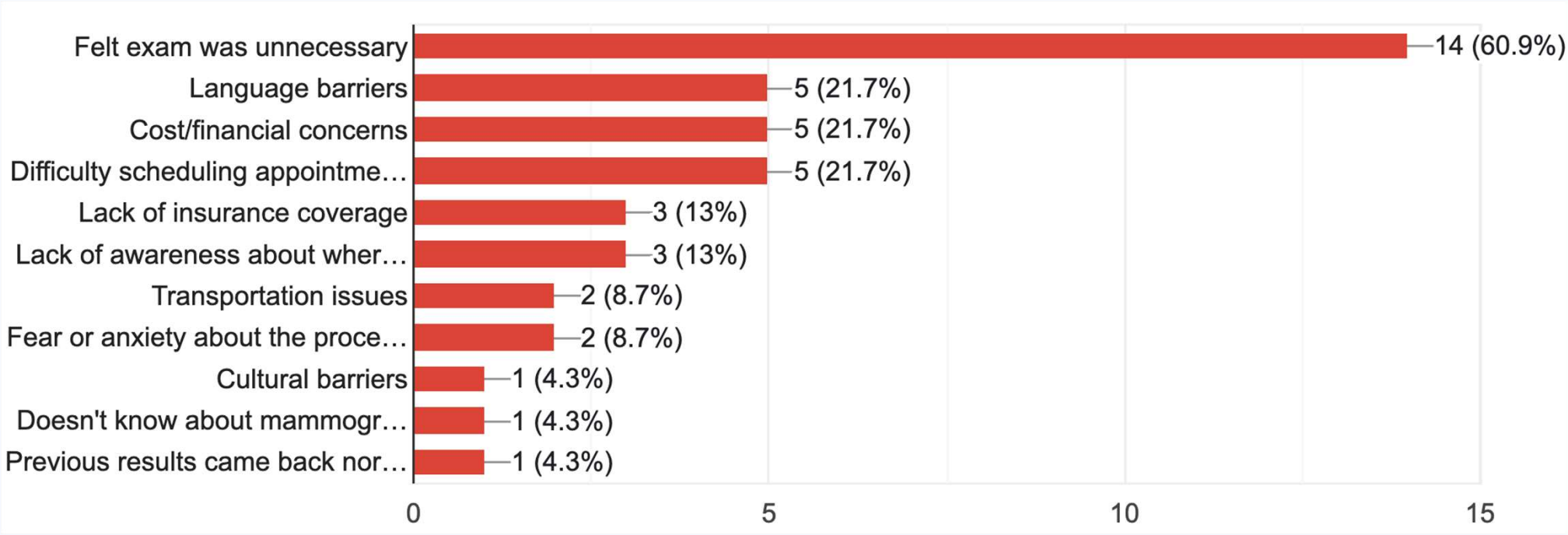
Results: 45.2% reported barriers when accessing mammography services

Barriers Encountered when Accessing Mammography



Results: "Felt exam was unnecessary" was the top reason for patients who chose to not get a mammogram

Reasons for Not Getting a Mammogram



Conclusion

- The results from this study highlights how our healthcare systems are not sufficiently addressing a prevalent belief among AA women: mammography is unnecessary for asymptomatic individuals.

- Unique factors, 1) language barriers, 2) difficulty scheduling appointments, and 3) financial concerns, are among the barriers that limit AA women from accessing and utilizing mammogram services.

Recommendations

Addressing these highlighted barriers may help reduce disparities in breast cancer screening and mortality among AA populations.

Strategies include:

- **Patient education**
- **Community outreach**
- **Free/low-cost screening days** with covered imaging services

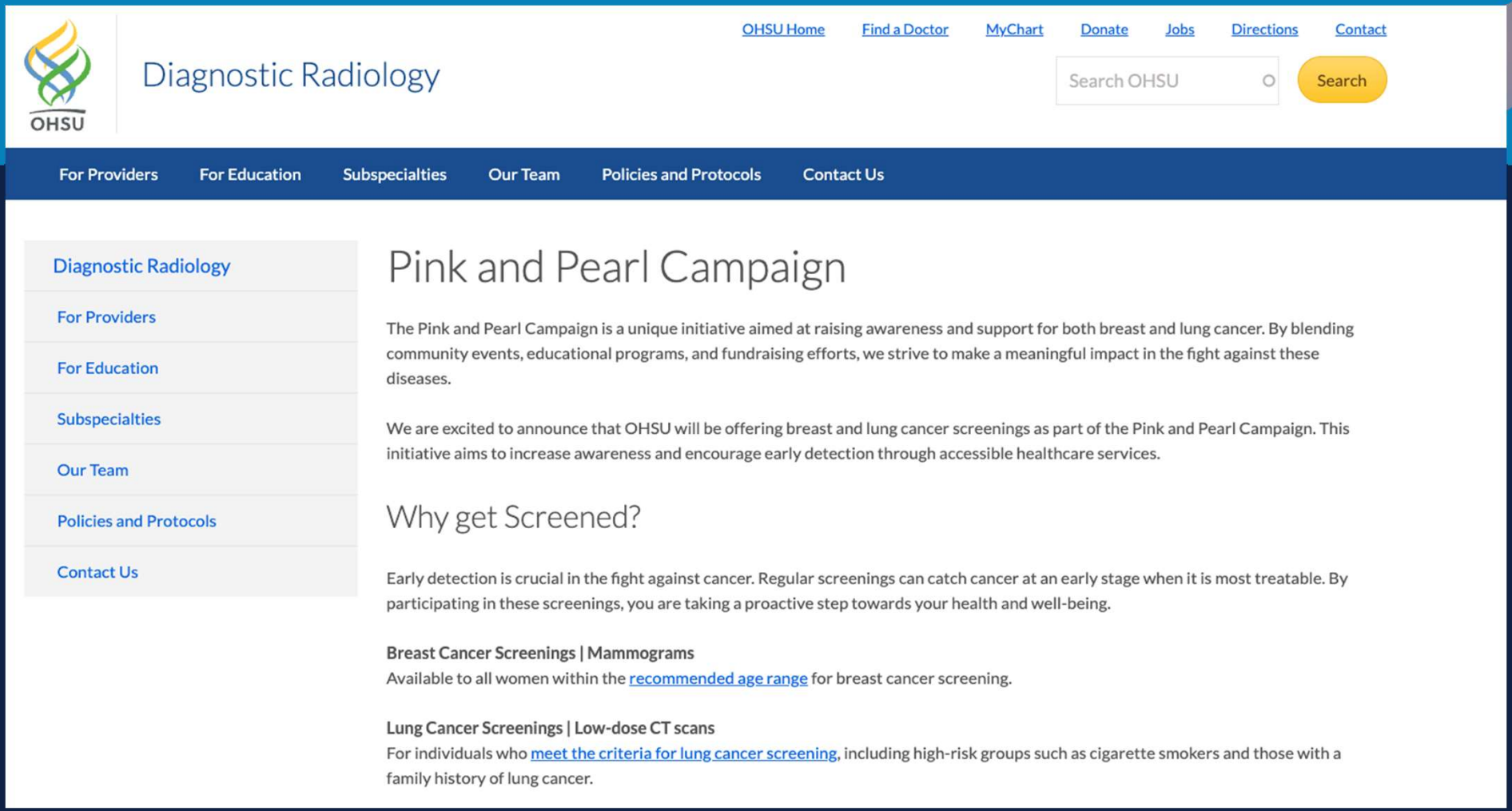
At OHSU...

- Community Organizations we reached out to:
  - Susan Komen
  - OHSU Health Care Equity Fair
  - Asian Health & Service Center
  - OHSU Hillsboro Health
  - Reclaiming Black Joy
  - Binational Health Fair
  - Soul 2 Soul

Susan Komen Walk for Breast Cancer, Portland OR, 2024

OHSU Pink & Pearl Campaign

- Raising awareness and support for both breast and lung cancer.
- Pilot event in March 2024, offering FREE screening mammograms to all patients regardless of insurance status.
- First "Pink & Pearl Campaign" event in October 2024, offering both screening mammograms and LDCT at no cost to all patients.



Our Effort Continues...

- March 15, 2025: first screening mammogram event for transgender patients in collaboration with the OHSU Transgender Health Program.
- The second "Pink & Pearl" screening event hopefully returns October 2025, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November).
- Working on expanding services offered to include colorectal cancer screenings.

Acknowledgements

- OHSU Breast Center, OHSU Health Equity Organization, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute
- KSO (Korean Society of Oregon), OCC (Oregon Chinese Coalition), & AHSC (Asian Health & Service Center)
- Breast Health For All Grant
- National Medical Fellowships Grant
- Delf Mini-Grant, Metropolitan Medical Foundation of Oregon (MMFO)

References

- Hendrick, R. E., Monticciolo, D. L., Biggs, K. W., & Malak, S. F. (2021). Age distributions of breast cancer diagnosis and mortality by race and ethnicity in US women. Cancer, 127(23), 4384–4392. https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.33846
- Eden, C. M., Johnson, J., Syrnioti, G., Malik, M., & Ju, T. (2023). The Landmark Series: The Breast Cancer Burden of the Asian American Population and the Need for Disaggregated Data. Annals of surgical oncology, 30(4), 2121–2127. https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-023-13103-4
- Dang, J., Lee, J., & Tran, J. H. (2010). Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding breast and cervical cancer screening among Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, and Tongan women. Journal of cancer education : the official journal of the American Association for Cancer Education, 25(4), 595–601. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-010-0082-1