

Gynecologic Cancers and its Impact on Latin American Women



Photo Credit: Jen Fariello

Gynecologic cancers represent a grave threat for all women. Latin American women, in particular, are disproportionately represented in gynecologic cancer cases and related-deaths.

Research data shows:

- Latina women show the highest instances of **cervical cancer** out of all groups of women. The lack of preventative testing is a critical factor that contributes to this disparity: 6 out of 10 cases of cervical cancer occur in women that have never had a pap smear or who have not had one in over five years.
- Latina women also have a higher probability of dying from **uterine cancer**, when compared to Caucasian or other non-Hispanic women.
- **Ovarian cancer** is recognized as the most lethal reproductive cancer, claiming 15,000 lives per year. Latina women have lower overall incidence rates than white and African American women, but more are diagnosed with early stage disease than the other two groups. (Results on Ovarian Cancer in Latina Women Living in the United States: Population-Based Analysis, John Hopkins, July 2012).



These realities highlight the importance of designing large-scale public awareness campaigns directed at the Latin-American community with important messages about the steps one can and should follow in order to reverse these disparities. The end goal is to promote prevention, early diagnosis, and optimal treatment.

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