Background & Study Purpose

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) have high rates of comorbid conditions which may contribute to their risk for cancer. Women with DD have lower cancer screening rates compared to women without disabilities.

Native American (NA) women also have lower rates of cancer screenings than White women. *Women Be Healthy 2 (WBH2)*, seeks to increase women with DD’s knowledge about breast and cervical cancer screenings, reduce anxiety about the tests, and address systemic barriers to care.

There is a need to adapt and test these materials for NA women with DD who experience the double-burden of disparities due to the intersection of disability and racial/ethnic identities.

The purpose of this community-engaged and culturally responsive research project is to identify facilitators and barriers related to cancer screening for NA women with DD in order to culturally adapt *WBH2* for NA women with DD.

Methods

**AIM 1:** Building partnerships with NA groups and communities in Arizona with an interest in developing cancer education programs for NA with DD.

**FIRST:** An Advisory Board (AB) with members involved in statewide efforts for people with DD, cancer control, and/or NA health and social services was formed.

**THEN:** Institutional Review Board approval was received to track and analyze the community-engagement processes for dissemination.

**FOLLOWING:** The AB met quarterly with study staff to assist in identifying potential areas for knowledge sharing and partnership formation.

**LASTLY:** Since September 2017, the study team has held seven AB meetings. These AB meetings were transcribed verbatim and analyzed by two coders using an inductive coding and constant comparison process. Findings were mapped onto the indigenous research framework (Grabiec & Lindsey, 2018).

Results

- Local meaning
- Change words to reflect community
- Adjust education and outreach
- Unique Native Nations
- Representative Advisory Board
- Ongoing feedback on project

Implications

A community-engaged approach aligns with the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Vision 2025 because it is collaborative, accessible and culturally responsive. Occupational therapists are well suited for community-engaged and culturally responsive research.

Additionally, the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (3rd Edition) promotes the profession’s need to acknowledge cultural and ecological contexts.

Acknowledgments

- Funded by the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (U54CA143924 & U54CA143925)
- Next phases of research are being completed with two community partners.