



How the
right
lab test code can
reduce bias &
improve health
equity...

Lisa Soltani MD MPH
PCP El Rio Health

EL RIO
HEALTH

Who are we missing?

Status: Little or no detectable change 

[Learn more about our data release schedule](#)



Most Recent Data:
73.9 percent
(2021) *



Target:
79.2 percent ¹ *



Desired Direction:
Increase desired

Wide and unacceptable screening disparity!

- Minoritized race/ethnicities: 54%-73%
- Ppl living w disability 62%
- <100% FPL 64%
- Gay/lesbian 68%
- Transgender males 37%
- Health Center Patients (2022 UDS Table 6b): **54% screened**

Healthy people 2030 <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/increase-proportion-females-who-get-screened-cervical-cancer-c-09>

The *why* of Primary HPV~



- ♥ 35 y.o. TGM declined further PAP testing after an uncomfortable speculum-based test resulted as “unsatisfactory” for diagnosis.
- ♥ Unable to pre-schedule prevention due to lack of:
 - Transportation
 - Childcare
 - Coverage
 - Time
- ♥ 25 y.o. living with bipolar disorder and childhood trauma, refuses any consideration of speculum exam.
- ♥ 52 y.o. with ESRD on PD (multiple prior abdominal procedures). Unable to be listed for renal transplant until she completes her cancer screenings.. including cervical.
- ♥ 26 y.o. acquired quadriplegia d/t spinal infarction, now home vent dependent. No prior cervical screening..

How can we improve?

- Screen at every opportunity (don't defer, don't refer..)
- Give front-line clinicians the tools/training
- Design and supply exam rooms for all bodies
- Advocate for access to primary HPV at our health centers
- Consider off-label self-screening for patients who refuse speculum (with primary-HPV)
- Incorporate trauma-informed pelvic care
- Prevent many types of cancer through HPV vaccination

HEALTH EQUITY

for all people to be able to attain their highest level



CDC YouTube Health Equity Jan 2023

Health Centers should examine how common workflows may create inadvertent bias that hinders health equity