



INITIATIVE ON
ISLAM AND MEDICINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ISNA: WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS

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DEVELOPING A RELIGIOUSLY-TAILORED MAMMOGRAPHY INTERVENTION IN MOSQUE COMMUNITIES

Community Partnership Building

- Council of Islamic Orgs of Greater Chicago
- Muslim Women Resource Center
- Arab American Family Services

Evidence Gathering

- Phase 1-Surveys
- Phase 2a-Focus Groups
- Phase 2b-Individual Interviews

Mosque-Based Community Intervention Development

- Sermons
- Peer health education workshops

EVIDENCE GATHERING

In Phase 1 of this project IIM staff surveyed 254 Muslim women in the Greater Chicago area and found:

- 37% of the women did NOT have a mammogram in the past two years.**
- Women who felt religious discrimination in healthcare were less likely to have a mammogram in the past 2 years.**
- Women who are more religious also appeared less likely to have a mammogram in the past two years.**

PHASE 2: OBTAINING NARRATIVES



*“Allah gave us a body to take care of... we call (it-concept) **“amana”** which is you know and like if someone gives you like a gift or something you take care of it.”*

(Arab Participant)

“I mean if Allah’s going to give it to you, he’s going to give it to you.”

(African American Participant)

CREATING A CULTURE OF HEALTH IN THE MOSQUE

“Well when only half the population is susceptible to something maybe that population doesn’t have as large of a voice. We don’t always have as big of a voice in the masjid. That’s just a fact.”

– Muslimah study participant

ACCOMPLISHING THE WORK



- Muslim Agents for Research & Community Health (MARCH)
- Sermons
 - Teach the religious concept that the body is a trust
 - Educate community about destiny and free will
 - Remind community about the importance of prioritizing one's health concerns
 - Pain and Fear should not be barriers to fulfilling religious duties
- Group Education Classes
 - Provide information about the process of getting a mammogram to dispel myths
 - Provide social support to reduce shame of talking about breast cancer and women's health within community settings
 - Address barriers related to mammography screening

HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

- Open positions at IIM:
 - Research Assistant in Health Behavior Intervention
 - Conference Coordinator
 - Research Intern
- For more information about how you can participate in IIM's work, contact:
[Hadiyah at the Initiative.islam.medicine@gmail.com](mailto:Hadiyah@theInitiative.islam.medicine@gmail.com)
- To learn more about the Initiative on Islam & Medicine, visit: **<http://pmr.uchicago.edu/iim>**