

Leveraging Mosques to Promote Breast Cancer Screening amongst American Muslim Women

Aasim I. Padela MD MSc
apadela@uchicago.edu

Objectives

- Walk through my K07
 - Specific Aims
 - Significance & Innovation
 - Projects and Approach
- Feedback
 - Framing
 - Is the significance significant?
 - Are the Innovations innovative?
 - Where to cut from Approach?

American Muslims

- Demographically Diverse
 - ~7 million
 - 20-24% Indigenous African American
 - 18-26% South Asian American
 - 24-26% Arab American
- Socio-economically Diverse
 - 65% Foreign-born, 35% Native
 - African Americans: lower socioeconomic strata, hx of racism
 - Arab & South Asians: skilled laborers, business owners

US Muslims & Breast Ca Screening

- All-Muslim samples (4 studies)
 - Mammography Ever- 69-73%
 - Biennial – 52-61%
 - CBE- 18-80%
- Arabs, S. Asian Samples (handful)
 - Mammography Ever- 59-71%
 - Biennial – 39-60%
 - CBE- 33-80%

Do Islamic Values and Beliefs Influence Breast Cancer Screening Practices?

Islamic Values

- Modesty (de novo)
- Fatalistic Belief
(adapted 3 measures)

Breast Cancer Screening

- Clinical Breast Exam
- Mammography
Screening

254 women: 26% African American 33% Arab American & South Asian
75% ever had a mammogram, 57% biennially, 80% CBE
Higher fatalism & modesty → lower odds of ever having mammogram;

Framing the Candidate

- Long-Term Goal:
 - Lead a program of community-partnered research and intervention to improve cancer outcomes among American Muslims. This program will systematically analyze the influence of religious beliefs on health behaviors and use that knowledge to deploy targeted mosque-based interventions

Framing the Application

- Overall objective:
 - to clarify how Islamic *beliefs, values and identity* shape breast cancer screening attitudes in a diverse sample of American Muslim women, and to apply that knowledge to a feasibility assessment of a mosque-based behavioral intervention that aims to promote screening

Specific Aim #1

- **Determine how religious ideas inform American Muslim women's explanatory framework for seeking breast cancer screening.**
- Muslim women will commonly relate
 - fatalistic ideas such as the belief that cancer is fated and that petitioning God is a means of preventing cancer,
 - a concern to safeguard modesty that fuels a disinclination to pursue breast cancer screening
 - experiences of perceived discrimination, in part due to the lack of modesty accommodations, that impede breast cancer screening.

Specific Aim #2:

- **Develop and test Muslim-specific measures of fatalism and concern for modesty.**
- Muslim women will draw on Islamic theological concepts such as complete reliance on God (*tawakul*), divine foreordination (*qada*), destiny (*qadar*), embedded within a framework of human responsibility (*takleef*) that conceptualizes fatalism.
- Muslim conceptions of modesty will entail practices such as not being secluded with members of the opposite sex and be reflected in one's dress.
- Both of these concepts will undergird attitudes towards preventive screening.

Specific Aim #3

- **Assess the feasibility of, and pilot, a mosque-based health intervention to promote breast cancer screening that utilized sermons and lay health educators**
- A sermon-based intervention aimed at overcoming fatalism toward breast cancer will be **welcomed** by community stakeholders and women congregants and deliver a new sense of responsibility to care for one's body through preventative medicine
- A peer-to-peer lay health educator-based intervention will improve participants' knowledge about breast cancer risks and screening options and enhance the intention to undergo breast cancer screening

Significance

- American Muslims represent a growing, diverse, underserved and under-researched minority population that underutilizes breast cancer screening
- A shared religion influences American Muslims health behaviors across ethnic and racial lines, yet religion-related factors impacting breast cancer screening remain under-explored
- Overcoming barriers to screening is a key first-step towards decreasing breast-cancer mortality.
- The mosque is central to Muslim life and is a largely untapped setting for health intervention.

Innovation

- The proposed project would extend the current paradigm of disparities research by examining how shared religious beliefs, values and identity influence the cancer-related health attitudes and beliefs of a minority community across race and ethnicity.
- Our studies will consider the full spectrum of religious influences, both as contributory and inhibitory, to breast cancer screening decisions.
- Our approach will shine light upon the interplay between religious values, identity and health care experiences in so far as they contribute to cancer screening

Project 1

- Mosque-based FGs
 - 2 for each major ethnic/racial group [6] & 2 mixed
 - 2 parts:
 - Elicit views on BrCa screening and how religious ideas inform these attitudes & behaviors
 - Ask about experiences of how religious values are met by healthcare system (interplay → perceived discrimination)
 - Respond to fatalism & modesty measures
 - Product
 - Understanding of religious concepts & health framework [Aim 1]
 - Refined constructs for measure development [Aim 2]

Project 2

- Feasibility study & pilot of mosque-based interventions [Aim 3]
 - Feasibility Assessment at Mosque
 - Sermon development with Imams [2 mosques]
 - Peer educational workshop [2 mosques; 4 wks]
 - Field-Test Measures
 - Pre & Post survey assessment of attendees

Hanging Threads

- FGs are segmented by mammography status → do I make explicit the comparison of how religious ideas may inform differently?
 - Where and then to what end?
- Religious identity, i.e. discrimination → I don't develop a measure nor is it highlighted in intervention—ideas?
- I don't elicit women's ideas about interventions due to FG time constraints → issue?

Concerns

- Rigor/Methods for Feasibility Assessment & Evaluation
 - Sermons:
 - Key Informant Interviews- CAB, Imams, mosque elders
 - Exit interviews with female attendees
 - Health Education Series
 - Key Informant Interviews- CAB, Imams, mosque elders
 - Pre-post survey of change in intention

Other Questions

- Overview
 - Do I need my influence of Islam model?
- Career Development
 - Tying each advisor to aims/gap in Career Development section?
 - Mentor meetings as experiential?
 - Publication goals?
- Where to Cut detail?