

# Abstract

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### **Barriers to Pap Smears Among Latina MediCal Enrollees Using GIS**

**Track:** Health and Human Services

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Papanicolau (Pap) smears are highly effective in detecting cervical cancer at the earliest stages. However, rates have been 15 to 30 percent lower among Latinas as compared to whites. This paper presents the use of GIS to measure three-year rates of Pap smear screenings among immigrant Latinas enrolled in managed Medicaid. A total of 266 of the women had evidence of a Pap smear and 104 had no record of the screening within the past three years. Geocoded addresses were used to identify Pap smear status by residence and distance to medical clinics. Potential barriers included rural residential locations and transportation.

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