

# Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs Regarding Breast Cancer among American Indian Women from the Northern Plains

*Nina S. Wampler, Timothy Ryschon, Spero M. Manson, Dedra Buchwald*

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## Abstract

American Indian women have low screening mammography rates. The authors' goal was to compare the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about breast cancer among Northern Plains Reservation women who had and had not received screening mammography in the previous year. Another goal was to compare response rates achieved with an immediate monetary incentive to those achieved with an incentive after survey completion. Questionnaires were mailed to 234 women who had undergone screening mammography and 266 women who had not. Respondents included 144 (62%) of women who had been screened and 127 (48%) of women who had not. Women who had not received mammography less often were aware that older age increased breast cancer risk compared to women who had had a mammogram in the previous year. Findings suggest that Northern Plains women would benefit from educational efforts and discussions with clinicians about mammography. Immediate monetary incentives appear to increase response rates.