

Breast Cancer Knowledge and Beliefs in Subpopulations of African American and Caribbean Women

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Objective: To examine breast cancer belief and knowledge deficits among previously unstudied African and Caribbean subpopulations and to consider the particular knowledge and belief components that are most lacking in each group. **Methods:** 1364 African American, US-born white, English-speaking Caribbean, Haitian, Dominican, and Eastern European women were recruiting via stratified-cluster sampling. Participants provided demographics and measures of beliefs and knowledge. **Results:** There were

between-group differences in cancer knowledge and beliefs and within-group variation in terms of which particular knowledge and belief items varied. **Conclusions:** Studying how cognitive factors relate to screening in well-defined minority groups will capacitate interventions suited to the knowledge and belief deficits that characterize populations of diverse women.

Key words: knowledge, breast cancer, minority women, health beliefs

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