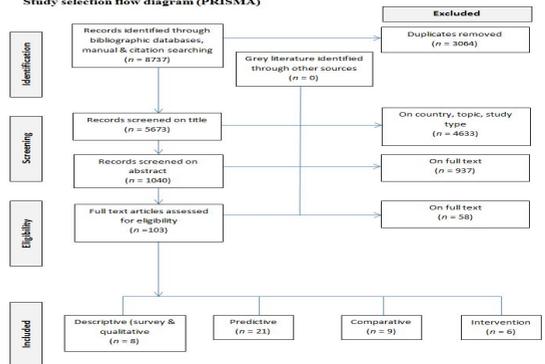


Brokering Innovation Through Evidence

## South Asian women’s attendance for breast and cervical cancer screening



Study selection flow diagram (PRISMA)



### Understanding the barriers and facilitators that influence South Asian women’s screening behaviour for breast and cervical cancer: a systematic review.

The incidence of some female cancers in South Asian women, such as breast cancer, is equal to and exceeding national rates in the UK. South Asian women diagnosed with female cancers have poorer relative survival rates than the national average. Full reasons for this are unclear, but poorer survival is partly attributable to South Asian women’s lower uptake of screening opportunities, which may be attributable to cultural factors within South Asian populations.

To date, there has been no systematic collation of this body of research with the intention of developing recommendations for health promotion practice in a UK context.

### What was the aim of the project?

Our aim was to identify the cultural, social, structural and behavioural factors that influence South Asian women’s screening behaviour for breast and cervical cancer and to decide priorities for further research. Our objectives were to:

- collect findings from previous studies on the knowledge, attitude and practices of South Asian women on screening for breast and cervical cancer in emigrant countries;
- look at the quality of the studies and whether the methods used for data collection have been repeated across studies using different methods;
- make recommendations for future research.

## What did we do?

We searched medical databases for four key concepts: 1) South Asian population 2) cancer 3) breast or cervical screening and 4) knowledge, attitude, practice, behaviour or compliance. The search was restricted to original research in English for all publication dates. Searches were conducted on 19th January 2016 and refreshed on 12th July 2016. The populations of interest were Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Maldivian and Nepali populations. The 44 studies included in this review were published between 1991 and 2016 and were conducted in the USA, Canada, UK, Spain, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia. Participants in the studies were recruited from community and healthcare settings.

## How did we involve people?

South Asian women were recruited from local community centres in Liverpool that had an interest in female cancers. Two women sat on the Steering Board and Management Group for the project and played an active part in the research itself.

## What next?

High quality research on screening attendance is required, where attendance is predicted from cultural understandings, beliefs, norms and practices; thus informing policy on targeting relevant public health messages to the south Asian communities about screening for cancer, and be useful for healthcare commissioners to decide how best to invest resources in areas with large ethnic groups.

## Partners / Stakeholders

The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust



## What we found and what does this mean?

Our review showed that South Asian women in emigrant countries generally had lower screening rates than host country women.

Some of the reasons for this were that South Asian women had poorer knowledge of cancer and cancer prevention and experienced more barriers to screening.

Interview studies suggest that cultural practices and traditions influenced understandings of cancer and prevention, highlighting the importance of host country cultures and healthcare systems. Self-reported cultural and structural barriers to screening were common across all of the studies.

## What is NIHR CLAHRC NWC?

The mission of the NIHR CLAHRC NWC is to work collaboratively with Partner organisations and other stakeholders including members of the public to co-produce and conduct high-quality, leadership enhancing, applied research designed to decrease health inequalities and improve the health of the population of the North West Coast.

## Find out more

<http://www.clahrc-nwc.nihr.ac.uk/index.php>

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