



1237 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30310-1731
Tel: 404.756.2680
Fax: 404.756.2684
Email: info@SisterSong.net
Website: www.SisterSong.net

Study Reports on Black Women in Low-Income Neighborhoods and Cervical Cancer Screenings

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Originally Published in *Collective Voices*, Vol. 2 Issue 5, Summer 2006

In a study published in the Feb. 1, 2006 edition of the journal *Cancer*, Black women living in low-income neighborhoods are less likely to regularly schedule cervical cancer screenings, *Reuters* reported. A team from the Harvard School of Public Health reviewed records of approximately 40,000 Black women registered in the Black Women's Health Study. Researchers examined participants' occupation, education, neighborhood, and the percentage of individuals living in poverty within those neighborhoods. With a working definition of regular screenings as within the last two years, researchers discovered that 8.3 percent of women did not have regular cervical cancer screening. It also reports that high school or lower education, old age, obesity and smoking are linked to lack of cervical cancer screenings. According to the report, neighborhoods with a 20 percent or higher rate of poverty are related to low rates in recent cervical cancer screenings. Geetanjali Datta from the Harvard School of Public Health told *Reuters*, "We can only speculate that [the disparities] might be due to a lack of resources, such as transportation, day care or health centers in deprived areas. There might be some benefit in neighborhood-level interventions focusing on high-poverty areas."