

## The influence of psycho-social factors on participation levels in community-based breast cancer prevention programs in Tehran, Iran

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Although significant consideration has been devoted to women participation in breast cancer prevention programs, our understanding about the psychosocial factors which influence participation remains incomplete. **Method:** The study applied a quantitative approach based on the cross-sectional survey design and multistage cluster random sampling. A total of 400 women aged 35-69 years, were surveyed at 4 obstetric and gynecologic clinics affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran: the participation levels of 86 women who have had a mammogram were analyzed based on their self-efficacy, belief, social influence, and barriers concerning mammography utilization. **Results:** Consistent with the study framework, in bivariate analysis, the higher level of women's participation in breast cancer prevention programs was significantly related to more positive belief about mammography ( $p < .05$ ), greater social influence on mammography ( $p < .01$ ) and fewer barriers to mammography ( $p < .01$ ). Self efficacy ( $p = .114$ ) was not significantly related to the higher level of participation. **Conclusion:** Results suggest that women's participation levels in breast cancer prevention programs might be associated with the specific psychosocial factors on breast cancer preventive behavior such as mammography screening.

**Keyword:** Psycho-social factors; Community participation; Participation levels; Community-based programs