The Relationship between Mammography and a Multi-factor Behavioral Index

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Objective: In this study, we sought to determine whether a multi-factor behavioral index predicts mammography screening in US women. Methods: Women aged 50-75 years were enrolled in an intervention study and provided their vegetable intake, physical activity (PA), smoking, body mass index (BMI), and alcohol intake. Each factor was scored from 0 (least healthy) to 4 (most healthy) then summed to form a multi-factor behavioral index (ranging from 0-20). Selfreport and medical records were used to determine mammography screening 6-months postintervention. Logistic regression was used to estimate multivariable-adjusted odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for the association with 6-month mammography. Results: The mean score for the multi-factor index was 11.8. An increased index score marginally predicted mammography adherence [OR = 1.05 (0.99-1.11)], with a stronger association among women receiving a doctor's recommendation for mammography [OR = 1.12 (1.04-1.20)]. Of the independent behavioral factors, high PA [OR = 1.13 (0.99-1.30), p = .075] and low BMI [OR = 1.25 (1.04-1.51), p = .017] were marginal and significant predictors of mammography, respectively. **Conclusion:** Women who engaged in a healthier behavioral lifestyle were more likely to utilize mammography screening, especially if they received a physician recommendation. Physicians should encourage mammography screening as part of a healthy behavioral lifestyle.

Key words: body mass index (BMI); breast health; healthy lifestyle index; mammography; multi-factor behavioral index; women's health

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B reast cancer (BC) is the most common cancer diagnosis and second leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States (US).¹ In 2019, there will be an estimated 268,600 incident BC cases, and almost 42,000 BC deaths among women in the US, representing 30% and 15% of total cancer incidence and deaths, respectively.¹ Mammography screening has been shown to reduce BC mortality.²⁻⁵ Specifically, annual mammography among women aged 50-74 is estimated to reduce BC mortality by 23%.⁶ Despite this evi-

dence, less than 72% of US women aged > 50 years are compliant with mammography screening, a rate far below national goals proposed by *Healthy People* 2020.⁷ If rates are to increase, it is necessary to investigate screening behaviors and elucidate factors that may influence screening decisions.

Several behavioral factors, including diet,⁸ physical activity (PA),⁹ smoking,¹⁰⁻¹¹ alcohol intake,¹² and body mass index (BMI)¹³ have been repeatedly associated with BC risk, with some factors possibly having a greater role in the etiology of some

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BC subtypes more than others.¹⁴⁻²¹ However, less is known about whether a healthy behavioral lifestyle, demonstrated by these behavioral variables, influences the decision to engage in mammography screening. Specifically, evidence suggests that smoking, alcohol intake, PA, and dietary behaviors may influence mammography uptake;²²⁻²⁴ however, the association between individual modifiable behavioral factors and mammography utilization warrants further investigation. Furthermore, a multi-factor behavioral approach may be more informative and elucidating than investigating individual factors.²⁵ To our knowledge, a multi-factor behavioral index approach has not been used to predict mammography screening. Such a method has been used to predict mortality,²⁵⁻²⁸ obesity,²⁹ all cancer risk^{25,30,31} risk of diabetes,³² stroke,³³ colorectal cancer,⁴³⁻³⁹ gastric cancer,⁴⁰ breast cancer,⁴¹⁻⁴³ and other outcomes,44-51 but not in relation to any cancer screening behavior.

The purpose of this study was to investigate how lifestyle behavioral factors, combined into a single multi-factor behavioral index, relate to mammography screening behavior. Additionally, as receiving a physician recommendation has been a significant factor in previous mammography screening studies,⁵²⁻⁵⁴ we assessed whether having a physician recommendation modified the relationship between the index and mammography screening. This is the first study to determine if a behavioral lifestyle index is related to cancer screening behavior. We hypothesized that a higher index score, indicating an overall healthier behavioral lifestyle, will be positively associated with mammography uptake, and receipt of a physician recommendation would strengthen this association. Results of this study will inform healthcare providers about lifestyle behavioral factors that influence screening behavior and help promote a healthy lifestyle.

METHODS

Study Design and Population

A prospective, randomized factorial colorectal cancer (CRC) screening intervention was conducted in Indiana during 2013-2015, as described in detail elsewhere.⁵⁵ Briefly, women aged 50-75 years were eligible if they had Internet access and were not adherent to colorectal cancer screening guide-lines. Internet access was required for delivery of the

intervention. All women recruited were non-adherent to CRC screening, and accrual was stratified by adherence to mammography screening. Therefore, approximately half of the accrued participants were adherent to mammography screening at baseline while the other half were not. If women were non-adherent to both mammography and CRC screening, the intervention addressed both behaviors. Baseline non-adherence to BC screening was defined as not having a mammogram in the last 15 months. All potentially eligible women had a primary care physician and were identified from 2 community-based healthcare systems' family and internal medicine practices. The list of eligible women was forwarded to Indiana University's Survey Center. Survey center staff accrued participants, obtained consent, and completed data collection. Among 1716 eligible women contacted for the study, 1196 were enrolled after 431 actively refused and 89 refused passively. Participants were then randomized into 4 groups to determine how effective different tailored interventions were at increasing CRC screening relative to usual care. Microsoft SQL random ordering functions were used to perform randomization. Groups were: N = 305 in usual care, N = 303 in Web-based intervention, N = 296 in phone counseling, or N =292 in Web-based and phone counseling. Of those enrolled, 275 were lost to follow-up, leaving 921 women for whom outcome data were available. We used a standard questionnaire, administered over the phone by Survey Center staff, to record demographic information, family history, cancer screening history (including mammography), and information regarding alcohol intake, smoking, PA, and vegetable intake. Participants also were given the option to complete this questionnaire online. Self-reported screening behavior also was collected either over the phone or online. At 6 months post-intervention, both self-report and medical record data were used to assess screening behavior for mammography and colorectal screening. This paper focuses only on mammography screening. A participant was considered to have completed screening if either self-report or medical record indicated that screening had occurred. If a participant's self-report conflicted with their medical record, the participant was coded as having screened because medical records may not always be the gold standard, such as if screening occurs outside of the primary healthcare system.

Multi-factor Behavioral Index

The focus of this current study was to identify predictors of 6-month mammography screening by using a multi-factor behavioral index. The multifactor behavioral index was created using health behavior data reported by participants at baseline. Specifically, participants' vegetable intake, PA, smoking behavior, alcohol consumption, and BMI were included in the index. Mammography status was measured at 6-months post-intervention. Of the 1196 women initially enrolled, 278 were excluded due to loss to follow-up and missing mammography data. These 278 did not significantly differ regarding age (p = .065), race (p = .12), or education level (p = .15). Of the 918 remaining, 243 were excluded due to missing lifestyle behavior data, leaving 675 with complete health behavior data to construct the index. The 243 excluded did not significantly differ according to age (p = .51), but did significantly differ by education (p = .0018) and race (p = .0002). Specifically, those excluded were less likely to have a college degree and more likely to identify as African-American. Each health behavior variable, except smoking (yes or no), was scored from 0-4, with higher scores reflecting healthier behavior. Total index scores ranged from 0-20. As data permitted, the index was scored according to guidelines published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Vegetable intake. Vegetable intake was measured by asking: "In the past 30 days, about how many servings per week of vegetables or leafy green salads did you eat?" and "In the past 30 days, how much did you usually eat in each serving of vegetables or leafy green salads?" According to the 8th edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2015-2020,⁵⁶ adults should consume 2.5 cups of vegetables per day, equating to 17.5 cups of vegetables per week. A score of 4 was given to those who met or exceeded this national recommendation; a score of 3 if their vegetable intake was between 17.5 cups and 13.125 cups (75% of recommended intake). A score of 2 was given to those with an intake between 50% and <75% of the recommended intake, a score of 1 to those who consumed between 25% and <50% of the recommended intake, and those who had a vegetable intake less than 25% of the

national recommendation received a score of 0.

Physical activity. Physical activity was measured by asking: "During the last 7 days, how much time did you spend doing vigorous activity?" The CDC recommends that adults perform 150 minutes of vigorous PA per week to achieve the greatest health benefits.⁵⁷ Based on these guidelines, study participants received a score of 4 if they were fully compliant with the 150-minute recommendation, and a score of 3 if their vigorous activity was less than 150 minutes but greater than 112.5 minutes (75% of recommendation). Scores of 2, 1, and 0 were given to those who performed 50 to <75%, 25 to <50%, and less than 25% of the 150-minute recommendation, respectively.

Alcohol consumption. Alcohol consumption was measured by asking participants: "How often do you currently drink alcoholic beverages?" Despite the elucidation of some potential health benefits,58,59 many studies have revealed that alcohol intake increases risk of several serious diseases in a dose-response fashion.⁶⁰⁻⁶⁴ This risk been found in association with as little as one drink per day or less⁶⁴⁻⁶⁶ leading some to conclude that there is no safe amount of alcohol consumption with respect to mortality from all causes, particularly cancer.^{62,67} Our scoring for alcohol intake reflected this conclusion. Specifically, non-drinkers received a score of 4 and participants who reported drinking alcoholic beverages less than once per week were assigned a score of 3. Participants who consumed alcohol once or twice a week were given a score of 2, and those who reported alcohol consumption 3-4 times a week received a score of 1. Participants who reported daily or almost daily consumption of alcohol were assigned a score of 0.

BMI and smoking. Participants' BMI was measured in units of kg/m², and BMI scores followed classifications defined by the CDC.⁶⁸ Participants with a BMI less than 25 received a score of 4; those classified as overweight (BMI 25 to <30) were assigned a score of 3; those with class I obesity (BMI 30 to <35) received a score of 2; participants who were class II obese (BMI 35 to <40) were given a score of 1; and participants with class III obesity (BMI of 40 of higher) were assigned a score of 0. Smoking was measured by asking: "Do you smoke?" Smokers were given a score of 0, nonsmokers were given a score of 4.

Characteristics	Total (N = 675)	Mammography Screening (N = 279)	No Mammogra- phy Screening (N = 396)	p-value
Age [mean (SD); median] ^a	58.8 (6.2); 57.2	58.7 (6.2); 56.8	58.9 (6.1); 57.5	.65
Age Range ^a	50.5-75.6	50.5-74.5	50.5-75.6	
Multi-factor Behavioral Index Score (mean (SD)) Range	11.8 (3.4); 12 3-20	12.2 (3.1); 12 4-19	11.5 (3.6); 11 3-20	.011
Vegetable intake score (mean; median)	1.4; 1	1.4; 1	1.4; 1	.57
Physical activity score (mean; median)	1.7; 1	1.8; 1	1.6; 1	.092
Smoking score (mean; median)	3.4; 4	3.5; 4	3.2; 4	.010
Alcohol intake score (mean; median)	2.9; 3	2.9; 3	2.9; 3	.93
Body Mass Index score (mean; median)	2.4; 3	2.4; 3	2.3; 3	.38
Race				
White	602 (89.2%)	245 (87.8%)	357 (90.2%)	
Black	58 (8.6%)	27 (9.7%)	31 (7.8%)	
Other	15 (2.2%)	7 (2.5%)	8 (2.0%)	.63
Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	5 (0.7)	4 (1.4%)	1 (0.3%)	
Non-Hispanic/Latino	670 (99.3%)	275 (98.6%)	395 (99.8%)	.078
Education				
High school graduate or less	167 (24.7%)	78 (28.0%)	89 (22.5%)	
Some college/associates/trade school	275 (40.7%)	102 (36.6%)	173 (43.7%)	
Bachelor's degree or higher	233 (34.5%)	99 (35.5%)	134 (33.8%)	.13
Income ^b				
\$30,000 or less	170 (25.8%)	64 (23.7%)	106 (27.3%)	
\$30,001 - \$75,000	286 (43.5%)	120 (44.4%)	166 (42.8%)	
\$75,000 or more	202 (30.7%)	86 (31.9%)	116 (29.9%)	.58
Insurance Coverage ^c				
No health insurance	54 (8.1%)	16 (5.8%)	38 (9.7%)	
Insurance (Yes)	614 (91.9%)	262 (94.2%)	352 (90.3%)	.062
Physician Recommendation ^d				
Yes	343 (56.4%)	189 (72.7%)	154 (44.3%)	
No	249 (41.0%)	68 (26.2%)	181 (52.0%)	
Not sure	16 (2.6%)	3 (1.2%)	13 (3.7%)	<.0001
			(continued on	next pag

Table 1

Data Analysis

Mammography screeners and non-screeners were analyzed for differences in age, race, education, income, insurance coverage, physician recommendation for screening, family history of BC,

personal history of BC, previous mammography attendance (ever vs never), and average index score. Differences in categorical and continuous variables were analyzed using chi-square and 2-sided t-tests, respectively. We estimated the association

Characteristics	Total (N = 675)	Mammography Screening (N = 279)	No Mammogra- phy Screening (N = 396)	p-value	
Family History of Breast Cancer					
Yes	140 (20.7%)	75 (26.9%)	65 (16.4%)		
No	516 (76.4%)	194 (69.5%)	322 (81.3%)		
Not sure	19 (2.8%)	10 (3.6%)	9 (2.3%)	.0018	
Personal History of Breast Cancer ^e					
Yes	36 (5.3%)	24 (8.6%)	12 (3.0%)		
No	638 (94.7%)	254 (91.4%)	384 (97.0%)	.0014	
Previous Mammography					
Ever	643 (95.3%)	273 (97.9%)	370 (93.4%)		
Never	32 (4.74%)	6 (2.2%)	26 (6.6%)	.0079	
Intervention Group					
Web intervention	161 (23.9%)	68 (24.4%)	93 (23.5%)		
Phone intervention	186 (27.6%)	77 (27.6%)	109 (27.5%)		
Web and phone intervention	146 (21.6%)	69 (24.7%)	77 (19.4%)		
Usual care (no interventions)	182 (27.0%)	65 (23.3%)	117 (29.6%)	.21	

Note.

Data shown are mean (SD) for continuous variables or N (%) for categorical variables; t-tests were used to compare continuous variables; chi-square tests were used to compare categorical variables.

a: Age shown in years

b: 17 missing observations - 9 from screeners, 8 from non-screeners

c: 7 missing observations – 1 from screeners, 6 from non-screeners

d: 67 missing observations - 19 from screeners, 48 from non-screeners

e: One missing observation from screeners

Some percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding

between the multi-factor behavioral index and mammography screening. Also, because we previously reported that physician recommendation was a statistically significant factor in cancer screening adherence,⁵⁴ we performed stratified analyses to assess the association between our index and mammography screening according to whether or not participants received a physician recommendation during the study. Finally, we tested each individual behavior in the index, and each of the scores for each behavior, to investigate associations with mammography screening. Smoking was treated as a categorical variable, all others were treated as continuous variables and further explored as categorical variables for dose-response relationships with mammography screening. Logistic regression was used to estimate the odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) and associated p-values. Two models were constructed for the regression analyses. The first model estimated crude associations, the second estimated associations after adjusting for mammography screening covariates: age, education, income, insurance coverage, family history of BC, personal history of BC, previous mammography, physician recommendation of mammography and study intervention in our

		Behavioral Factor				
	Vegetable intake	Physical activity	Smoking	Alcohol intake	BMI	
Score			N (%)			
0	206 (30.5%)	313 (46.4%)	108 (16.0%)	36 (5.3%)	93 (13.8%)	
1	236 (35.0%)	65 (9.6%)		60 (8.9%)	90 (13.3%)	
2	112 (16.6%)	20 (3.0%)		91 (13.5%)	133 (19.7%)	
3	10 (1.5%)	70 (10.4%)		207 (30.7%)	186 (27.6%)	
4	111 (16.4%)	207 (30.7%)	567 (84.0%)	281 (41.6%)	173 (25.6%)	
Mean; Median	1.38; 1.00	1.69; 1.0	3.36; 4.00	2.94; 3.00	2.38; 3.00	

Score: 0= Unhealthy behavior (Not meeting recommended guidelines of the lifestyle factor), and 4= Healthy behavior (Meeting the recommended guidelines of the lifestyle factor). Data shown are N (%) of participants receiving each score for the differing lifestyle factors.

original study.⁵⁵ Stratified analyses did not include physician recommendation in the adjusted model. We controlled for the intervention to minimize any possible confounding of our results by intervention content. When analyzing the individual health behaviors within the index, a third model was constructed to additionally adjust for the other health behavior variables. To assess whether physician rec-

ommendation for screening modified the association between the multi-factor behavioral index and mammography, an interaction term of the index score and physician recommendation was included in the crude and adjusted models. All analyses were performed using SAS, version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC). All p-values <.05 (2-sided) were considered statistically significant.

Table 3
Association between Multi-factor Behavioral Index and 6-month Mammography Screening
among windwestern women aged 50-75, and stratified by Thysician Recommendation

Lifestyle Index	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
All Participants			
Crude (N = 675)	1.06	1.01-1.11	.013
Adjusted ^a ($N = 586$)	1.05	0.99-1.11	.083
No Physician Recommendation			
Crude (N = 249)	0.96	0.89-1.04	.35
Adjusted ^b (N = 236)	0.95	0.86-1.04	.25
Physician Recommendation			
Crude (N = 343)	1.12	1.05-1.20	.0009
Adjusted ^b ($N = 334$)	1.12	1.04-1.20	.0027

Note.

a: Adjusted for age, education, income, health insurance coverage, family history of breast cancer, personal history of breast cancer, previous mammography, intervention group, and physician recommendation.

b: Adjusted for age, education, income, health insurance coverage, family history of breast cancer, personal history of breast cancer, previous mammography, and intervention group.

Table 4 Association between Individual Lifestyle Behaviors and 6-month Mammography Screening among Midwestern Women Aged 50-75						
	Model					
	Unstratified	p- value	Stratified no physician recommendation	p- value	Stratified physician recommendation	p- value
Vegetable Intake						
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.03 (0.92-1.16)	.57	0.91 (0.73-1.12)	.39	1.06 (0.91-1.24)	.44
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	0.96 (0.84-1.10)	.54	0.86 (0.67-1.09)	.23	1.01 (0.86-1.20	.88
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	0.94 (0.82-1.08)	.36	0.86 (0.67-1.09)	.22	0.98 (0.82-1.16)	.80
Physical activity						
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.08 (0.99-1.17)	.09	0.95 (0.81-1.11)	.54	1.18 (1.05-1.34)	.007
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.10 (0.99-1.21)	.06	0.96 (0.81-1.14)	.67	1.19 (1.04-1.35)	.010
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.08 (0.97-1.20)	.16	0.99 (0.82-1.18)	.87	1.13 (0.99-1.30)	.075
Smoking						
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.15 (1.03-1.29)	.01	1.16 (0.56-2.54)	.70	1.17 (1.01-1.38)	.046
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.10 (0.96-1.25)	.17	1.02 (0.84-1.27)	.82	1.16 (0.98-1.38)	.088
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.10 (0.97-1.26)	.15	1.02 (0.83-1.28)	.85	1.19 (1.00-1.43)	.057
Alcohol Consumption						
Crude OR (95% CI)	0.99 (0.87-1.13)	.93	0.95 (0.76-1.20)	.69	0.88 (0.72-1.06)	.17
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	0.96 (0.82-1.12)	.58	0.97 (0.75-1.26)	.80	0.92 (0.74-1.14)	.46
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	0.98 (0.83-1.16)	.84	0.91 (0.69 -1.20)	.50	0.96 (0.77-1.20)	.73
BMI						
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.06 (0.94-1.18)	.38	0.93 (0.75-1.14)	.46	1.30 (1.11-1.53)	.002
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.11 (0.97-1.27)	.13	0.88 (0.70-1.11)	.29	1.28 (1.07-1.52)	.006
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.09 (0.95-1.26)	.23	0.86 (0.67-1.11)	.24	1.25 (1.04-1.51)	.017

Note.

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval

a: Adjusted for age, education, income, health insurance coverage, family history of breast cancer, personal history of breast cancer, previous mammography, physician recommendation (unstratified only), and intervention b: Additionally adjusted for other health behaviors in index

c: Treated as categorical in the model because it contains only 2 values (0 or 4); all other variables (vegetable, physical activity, alcohol consumption and BMI) were treated as continuous in Table 4 and further explored for categorical dose-response relationships in Table 5

RESULTS

Participants were predominantly white (89.2%), with a mean (median) age of 58.8 (57.2) years, and an average index score of 11.76 (range of 3-20). Overall, 41.3% of the women in our sample were adherent to mammography guidelines. Women who were adherent to mammography by 6-months post-intervention were more likely to have a higher multi-factor behavioral index, health insurance, a family history of BC, a personal history of BC, and have had a previous mammogram compared to those who did not screen. Among women who screened, 72.7% received a physician's recommendation relative to 44.3% among those who did not undergo screening (Table 1). The majority of women consumed either less than 25% (30.5%) or 25 to <50% (35.0%) of the recommended vegetable intake per week (Table 2). Additionally, 46.4% of women performed 25% or less of the national vigorous activity recommended per week. Most

Mammography Screening among Midwestern Women aged 50-75 Years by Physician Recommendation to Screen Status							
	Index Score ^c						
Nutrients	Zero (ref)	One	Two	Three	Four		
Pa	rticipants wh	o received a Physici	an recommendation	to screen			
Vegetable intake							
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	1.36 (0.80-2.32)	1.88 (0.98-3.66)	1.04 (0.19-5.83)	1.23 (0.65-2.34)		
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	1.17 (0.66-2.08)	1.42 (0.70-2.94)	0.85 (0.15-5.00)	1.05 (0.53-2.10)		
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	1.19 (0.65-2.18)	1.28 (0.61-2.73)	0.47 (0.08-2.93)	0.96 (0.47-1.98)		
Physical activity							
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	0.89 (0.41-1.88)	1.86 (0.54-7.33)	3.32 (1.47-8.27)	1.68 (1.02-2.78)		
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	0.79 (0.35-1.76)	1.45 (0.38-6.04)	3.34 (1.42-8.62)	1.82 (0.92-3.67)		
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	0.71 (0.31-1.61)	1.29 (0.33-5.53)	2.73 (1.07-7.49)	1.41 (0.80-2.52)		
Smoking							
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	d	d	d	1.90 (1.02-3.62)		
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	d	d	d	1.79 (0.91-3.61)		
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	d	d	d	1.80 (0.87-3.82)		
Alcohol consumption							
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	1.48 (0.42-5.33)	1.72 (0.55-5.38)	1.11 (0.39-3.14)	0.91 (0.33-2.50)		
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	1.15 (0.30-4.47)	1.53 (0.46-5.07)	1.04 (0.34-3.16)	0.93 (0.31-2.78)		
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	0.91 (0.22-3.79)	1.41 (0.39-5.13)	1.01 (0.30-3.34)	0.89 (0.27-2.89)		
BMI							
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	1.30 (0.59-2.90)	2.29 (1.11-4.84)	2.11 (1.04-4.33)	3.04 (1.46-6.49)		
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	1.43 (0.61-3.41)	2.66 (1.20-6.02)	2.13 (1.00-4.65)	3.02 (1.36-6.87)		
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	1.17 (0.48-2.87)	2.41 (1.05-5.63)	1.94 (0.87-4.44)	2.95 (1.24-7.17)		

women were non-smokers (84.0%), and the most prevalent categories for alcohol intake and BMI were abstinence (41.6%) and 25 to <30 (27.6%), respectively.

Our multi-factor behavioral index was significantly associated with mammography use in the crude model and marginally associated in the adjusted model (Table 3). After adjustment for covariates, study participants with a higher index score were marginally more likely to receive mammography screening [OR=1.05 (0.99-1.11), p = .084] (Table 3). Behavioral index scores did not significantly differ among those who did and did not receive a physician recommendation to screen (p = .63); however, physician recommendation significantly modified the association between the multi-factor behavioral index and mammography association (interaction p-value = .002). Therefore, separate logistic regression models were run for recommendation and no recommendation from physician (Table 3). After adjusting for covariates, women with a higher index score, who also received a doctor's recommendation for mammography, were more likely to screen [OR = 1.12 (1.04-1.20), p = .0027]. No behavior-mammography association was observed among women who did not receive a physician's recommendation in crude or adjusted models [adjusted OR = 0.95 (0.86-1.04), p = .25].

Of the individual behavioral factors within the index, vegetable intake (p = .80) and alcohol con-

Table 5 (continued)Association between Scores for Individual Behavioral Factors and 6-monthMammography Screening among Midwestern Women aged 50-75 Years by
Physician Recommendation to Screen Status

		1	ndex Score ^c					
Nutrients	Zero (ref)	One	Two	Three	Four			
Participants without a Physician recommendation to screen								
Vegetable intake								
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	0.82 (0.42-1.63)	0.94 (0.40-2.16)	e	0.84 (0.35-1.94)			
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	0.83 (0.40-1.74)	0.82 (0.30-2.19)	e	0.57 (0.20-1.49)			
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	0.89 (0.41-1.92)	0.96 (0.32-2.77)	e	0.61 (0.20-1.74)			
Physical activity								
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	1.45 (0.51-3.87)	2.02 (0.38-9.63)	1.42 (0.56-3.46)	0.75 (0.38-1.46)			
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	1.61 (0.50-4.93)	2.90 (0.45-16.94)	1.59 (0.55-4.37)	0.80 (0.37-1.66)			
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	1.51 (0.45-4.83)	2.48 (0.38-15.00)	1.56 (0.52-4.48)	0.79 (0.35-1.74)			
Smoking								
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	d	d	d	1.16 (0.56-2.54)			
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	d	d	d	1.01 (0.49-2.63)			
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	d	d	d	1.14 (0.47-2.93)			
Alcohol consumption								
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	2.29 (0.55-11.92)	1.44 (0.36-7.33)	2.17 (0.63-10.03)	1.24 (0.36-5.78)			
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	1.55 (0.32-9.18)	1.16 (0.25-6.62)	2.18 (0.55-11.17)	1.01 (0.26-5.15)			
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	1.71 (0.33-10.60)	1.27 (0.27-7.38)	1.93 (0.47-10.23)	0.83 (0.20-4.38)			
BMI								
Crude OR (95% CI)	1.00	1.19 (0.40-3.69)	1.27 (0.46-3.68)	0.88 (0.34-2.41)	0.86 (0.33-2.36)			
Adjusted OR1 (95% CI) ^a	1.00	0.98 (0.29-3.32)	1.23 (0.41-3.81)	0.84 (0.30-2.48)	0.64 (0.22-1.91)			
Adjusted OR2 (95% CI) ^b	1.00	0.78 (0.21-2.86)	0.96 (0.30-3.14)	0.84 (0.28-2.63)	0.54 (0.16-1.84)			

Note.

Ref, reference; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval

a: Adjusted for age, education, income, health insurance coverage, family history of breast cancer, personal history of breast cancer, previous mammogram, and intervention

b: Additionally adjusted for other health behavior index scores

c: Index Score: 0 = Unhealthy behavior (Not meeting recommended guidelines of the lifestyle factor), and 4 = Healthy behavior (Meeting the recommended guidelines of the lifestyle factor)

d: No data - Smoking was scored as 0 (smokers) or 4 (non-smokers)

e: Inadequate observations to generate OR (95%CI)

sumption (p = .73) were not associated with mammography in crude or either of the adjusted models, even among those with a physician's recommendation (Table 4). Among those with physician recommendation, smoking was statistically significant in the crude model but only marginally associated with mammography in the model adjusted for covariates and other lifestyle factors (p = .057). BMI was a statistically significant predictor of mammography among women who received a physician's recommendation to screen. After adjustment for covariates, including other behavioral factors, women with a low BMI [OR = 1.25 (1.04-1.51), p = .017] were more likely to screen (Table 4).

In further exploration of the dose-response relationship for specific scores of each behavioral variable (Table 5), women who received a physician recommendation and had a BMI of: <25kg/m² [OR = 2.95 (1.24-7.17)] and 30-35 kg/m² [OR= 2.41 (1.05-5.63) were more likely to receive a mammogram compared to women with a BMI >40 kg/m². Among women who received a physician's recommendation to screen (Table 4), PA was a statistically significant predictor of mammography in the first adjusted model [OR = 1.19 (1.04-(1.35), p = .0098], and a marginal predictor in the second adjusted model [OR = 1.13 (0.99-1.30), p = .075]. Specifically, women who received a physician recommendation and practiced PA for 112.5-150 minutes/week were more likely to receive a mammogram [OR = 2.73 (1.07-7.49)] compared with women who were physically inactive (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

We report that a multi-factor behavioral index, comprised of vegetable intake, PA, smoking, alcohol intake, and BMI, was marginally associated with mammography screening. However, when combined with a physician recommendation, our index was significantly, positively associated with mammography. Within the index, BMI and PA were significantly and marginally associated with mammography among individuals who received a physician recommendation to screen, respectively, in the overall sample. However, physician recommendation was a strong effect modifier. Among women who received a physician recommendation, those who were more physically active and those with a lower BMI were more likely to screen compared to those who were inactive and had a higher BMI, respectively, after adjusting for baseline covariates and other individual behavioral factors.

To our knowledge, we are the first to utilize a multi-factor behavioral index approach in relation to mammography screening behavior. Such a method has been used to predict cancer risk^{25,30,31,34-43} as well as associations with a variety of other health-related outcomes^{26-29,32,33,44-51} but not for cancer screening. Although this method has not been used to predict mammography screening, vegetable intake,²² PA,^{22,69} smoking behavior,^{22,69-80} alcohol consumption,^{22,69,72,79} and BMI^{22,71-76,81-89}

have been investigated individually for associations with mammography. Our findings for BMI and PA only among women who received a recommendation for mammography underscores the key role of health providers in increasing screening rates. Our previous studies⁵²⁻⁵⁴ and those of others⁹⁰⁻⁹⁴ show a provider recommendation significantly improves BC screening rates.

Within our index, BMI was inversely associated with mammography screening. The association between BMI and mammography has been studied extensively in the literature, but results remain inconsistent. In accord with our finding, other studies have suggested an inverse association between BMI and mammography.74,85,86 A large, US-based study found that obese women were significantly less likely to screen than normal-weight women – an association that was even stronger among women classified as morbidly obese, but no statistically significant results appeared among the overweight women.⁸⁹ In a 2009 meta-analysis, morbidly obese women (BMI > 40), but no other classes of obesity or overweight, were significantly less likely to undergo mammography relative to normal-weight women.⁹⁵ In contrast, other studies produced null results.^{22,71-73,75,83} The possible explanation for reduced screening among obese women may involve embarrassment, perceived weight stigma, lack of appropriately sized examination equipment, or poor patient-provider communication.⁹⁶

We report PA was marginally, positively associated with mammography screening. PA has been found to be associated with mammography in several,^{22,70,82} but not all studies.^{69,71} Furthermore, we found a slightly inverted u-shaped association between PA and mammography (also seen for alcohol consumption although no significant results). A possible explanation for this could be that women with the healthiest PA (and alcohol consumption) behavior considered their behavior as protective against BC, and therefore, did not feel as much of a need to participate in mammography. Our study did not find an association between mammography and the other behavioral factors (vegetable intake, smoking, and alcohol consumption). Relative to BMI and PA, fewer studies have explored the role of vegetable intake and alcohol consumption with respect to BC screening. Contrary to our findings, Sözmen et al, found those with a high

vegetable intake were more likely to screen compared to those who did not.⁷⁰ Regarding alcohol intake and BC screening, some studies found no association,^{69,72} whereas others found that alcohol intake was associated with increased²² or reduced⁷⁹ screening when compared to those with low or no alcohol intake. Unlike our study and others^{71,75,80} some previous research has found that smokers were less likely to screen for BC compared to nonsmokers.^{22,69,72-74,76,77,79} One difference in our study that may help explain the null association between smoking and mammography is the inability to identify former smokers.

Our results should be interpreted within the context of the study's limitations. In this study, non-adherence to mammography guidelines was defined as not having a mammogram within the previous 15 months. This is because, at the time data for this study were collected, the American Cancer Society's mammography recommendation stated that women should begin annual screening at age 40 and continue with annual mammography for as long as the woman is in reasonably good health.⁹⁷ Data were collected in accordance with screening recommendations for that time. Since this time, the American Cancer Society recommends annual and biennial mammograms for women aged 45-54 years and \geq 55 years, respectively.⁹⁷ Although guidelines have changed, our study investigates factors pertaining to mammography adoption, not timing, so we believe our results still to be valid, meaningful, and useful. Demographically, our sample is not representative of the US population of women aged 50-75, detracting from the generalizability of our results. Additionally, those that were excluded due to missing health behavior data statistically differed to those that were included with respect to education and race. Although we adjusted for these variables in all analyses, it is possible that our results may have been different if these women had been included. No biomarkers were used to assess participants' behavioral/lifestyle factors objectively; rather, data were ascertained via participant recall. In some instances, participant recall also was used for assessment of screening behavior, introducing the possibility of misclassification. Additionally, PA was based on participant recall of activity for the previous 7 days. Although these gathered data may have been an accurate representation of typical PA, it is possible that some participants' PA during the time of interview, 2013-2015, was anomalous to their typical or average behavior. Regarding smoking, our data were limited to current smokers and non-smokers only; no data were collected regarding former smoking activity. Regarding alcohol consumption, it is possible that non-drinkers were abstaining from alcohol because of comorbidities or other conditions dictating their drinking behavior rather than due to a desire to be healthy. Limitations to alcohol consumption data prevented us from scoring this behavior using average drinks per day, a preferable measure as CDC recommendations are reported drinks per day.98 Also, we were limited by our inability to differentiate diagnostic screening from preventive mammography. Because of this, all screening was classified as mammography, thereby raising the possibility that diagnostic screens were counted as mammography screening.

IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH BEHAVIOR OR POLICY

Our study findings have implications for primary care physicians and other healthcare providers, emphasizing their role in improving national screening rates. Women in our study were more likely to receive mammography screening if they had a healthier behavioral lifestyle and received a physician's recommendation to screen. These results suggest that encouraging a healthier lifestyle and increasing patient-physician communication regarding BC screening may help to improve mammography adherence among US women. Therefore, to increase nationwide screening rates from less than 72% to the 81.1% goal proposed in *Healthy People 2020*⁷, healthcare providers should promote mammography screening as part of overall healthy living, especially among women who do not have a healthy behavioral lifestyle.

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Human Subjects Approval Statement

The Institutional Review Board at Indiana University and community sites approved the study, and it is registered with the clinical trials identifier NCT03279198. This study is a secondary analysis of previously-collected data and investigators did not contact or identify study participants.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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