



Impact of Community Health Screening Programmes on Cancer Awareness in Rural Zimbabwe: A Qualitative Study

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Published: 11 August 2005 | **Received:** 29 April 2005 | **Accepted:** 15 June 2005

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18819338](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18819338)

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Abstract

Rural areas in Zimbabwe often lack access to comprehensive healthcare services, including cancer screening programmes. This study aims to explore how such programmes can improve cancer awareness among residents. This research employed semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of 30 community members who participated in health screening programmes over the past two years. Data collection involved face-to-face discussions focusing on participants' experiences, challenges faced during screenings, and their perspectives on cancer prevention and awareness. Findings indicate that participants reported significant improvements in understanding about cancer symptoms and risk factors after participating in community health screenings. Notably, 70% of respondents felt more confident discussing cancer with healthcare providers following the programme. Community health screening programmes have shown promising results in enhancing cancer awareness among rural Zimbabwean communities. However, further research is needed to address persistent barriers such as limited access to transportation and financial constraints. Healthcare organizations should prioritise expanding community-based screening initiatives and collaborating with local authorities to overcome logistical challenges faced by participants. Cancer Awareness, Community Health Screening Programmes, Rural Zimbabwe

Keywords: *Africanization, Community Participation, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Health Education, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Participatory Action Research*

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