



U.S. CLINICAL STUDY DEMONSTRATES

At-home cervical cancer screening is as accurate as in-clinic, and preferred by 94% of women

# Cervical cancer is nearly 100% preventable with early detection

Together, routine screening and the HPV vaccine make cervical cancer **one of the only cancers that could be eliminated in the near future**; yet in the U.S.:

**1 in 4**

Women are not up-to-date<sup>1</sup> on their screening

**295K**

Women in the US are living with cervical cancer.<sup>2</sup>

**4,360**

Women will lose their life to cervical cancer this year<sup>3</sup>



## The current screening method

Often referred to as a Pap smear (using the speculum): this test greatly reduced the cancer incidence rate from when it was first introduced more than 80 years ago, but screening rates have dropped 10%<sup>4</sup> in the last decade. Younger women<sup>5</sup> are being diagnosed with cervical cancer most frequently - **an alarming trend that demands correction.**

## The Teal Wand™

To help close the screening gap and increase access to this life-saving screening, Teal Health designed the Teal Wand™, a patented, vaginal sample at-home self-collection device that enables women and people with a cervix to collect their own vaginal sample from home, with ease, comfort, and accuracy.



<sup>1</sup><https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/increase-proportion-females-who-get-screened-cervical-cancer-c-09>

<sup>2</sup><https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>

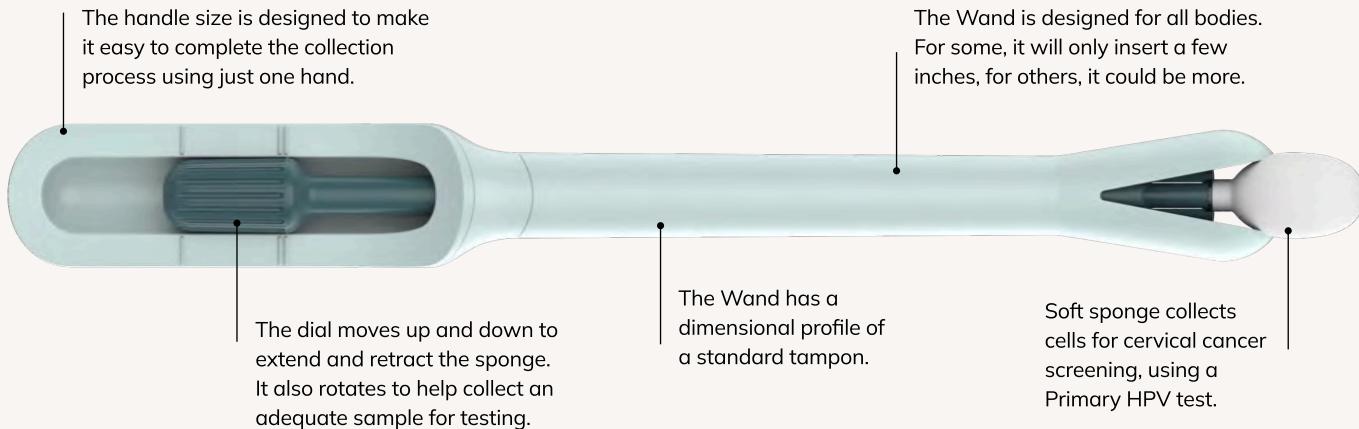
<sup>3</sup><https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/cervical-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

<sup>4</sup>[https://progressreport.cancer.gov/detection/cervical\\_cancer](https://progressreport.cancer.gov/detection/cervical_cancer)

<sup>5</sup><https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21820>

# Screening At-Home with the Teal Wand

The Teal Wand is purposefully designed to allow for easy at-home self-collection.

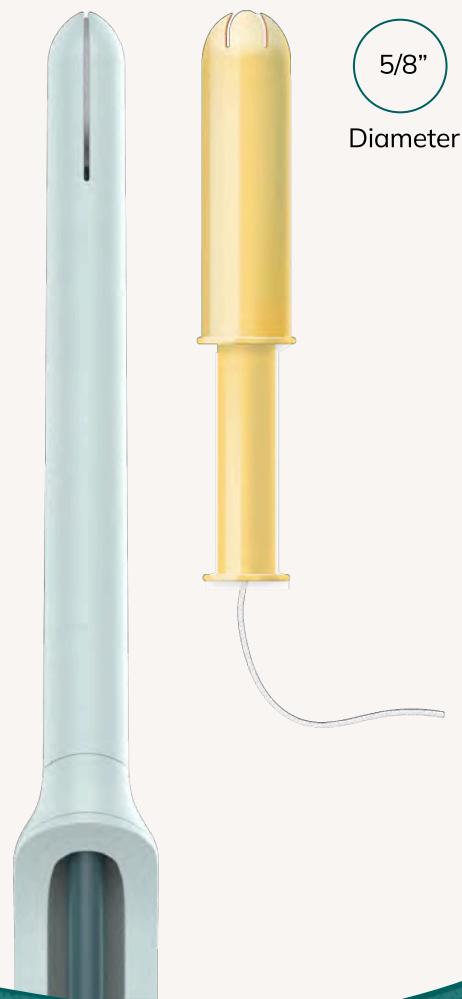


## Teal Wand Highlights

- Unique, soft sponge is comfortable and maximizes sample collection
- One-handed use
- Accommodates different body sizes
- Familiar dimensions, similar to a tampon
- Atraumatic insertion profile to enhance comfort

The Teal screening box is mailed – it contains everything a woman needs to easily and comfortably collect her sample from the privacy of her home and mail the sample to the lab. At the lab, the sample is tested for high-risk HPV (human papillomavirus), which is the cause of nearly all cervical cancers. Results are shared via a secure patient portal, and medical providers are available virtually to discuss results and support with any follow-up care according to established medical guidelines<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>[https://journals.lww.com/jlgtd/fulltext/2025/04000/self\\_collected\\_vaginal\\_specimens\\_for\\_hpv\\_testing\\_6.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jlgtd/fulltext/2025/04000/self_collected_vaginal_specimens_for_hpv_testing_6.aspx)



# In this report

Teal Health shares a detailed look into our SELF-CERV study, including the clinical results, demographic profile of our 600+ participants, and usability and preferences outcomes. Our data not only demonstrates the accuracy of the Teal Wand but also underscores the demand for an at-home screening method.

## Key Takeaways

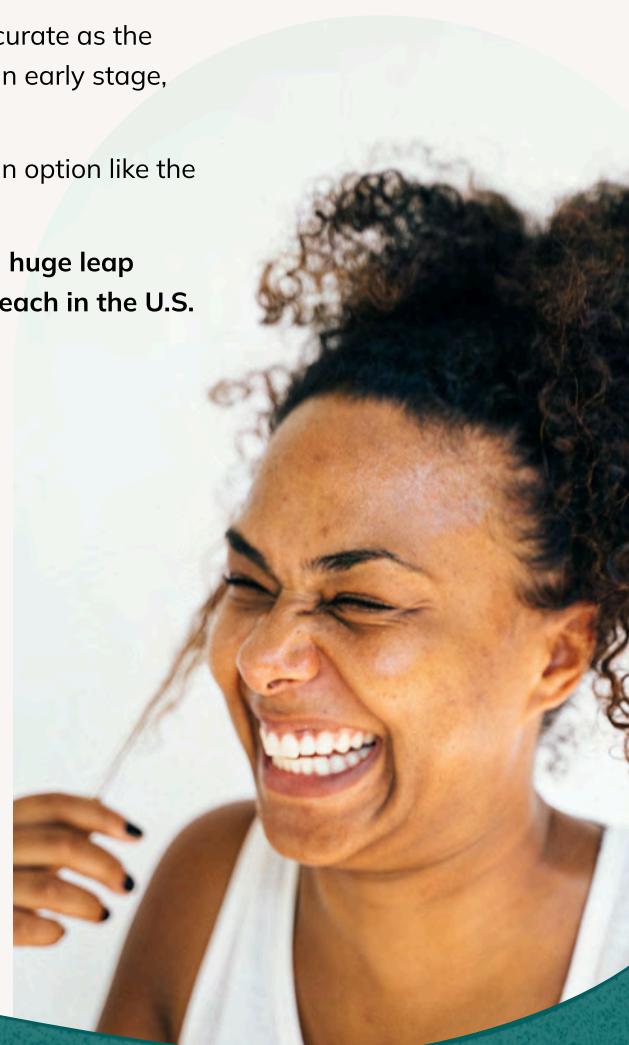
1. Teal's nationwide clinical study enrolled over 600 women and people with cervixes, mirroring the U.S. population across most demographic categories.
2. The results showed that self-collection using the Teal Wand is as accurate as the clinician using a speculum, reliably detecting cervical precancers at an early stage, when cervical cancer can be prevented.
3. Given its accuracy and improved experience, 94% of women prefer an option like the Teal Wand for their screening.
4. With the Teal Wand, 86% of women would screen on time – **this is a huge leap forward and means that eliminating cervical cancer is within our reach in the U.S.**

PART 1: Study Demographics and Overall Participation | Page 6

PART 2: Clinical Outcomes for HPV Detection Using the Teal Wand | Page 9

PART 3: Delays and Barriers to In-Clinic Cervical Cancer Screening | Page 10

PART 4: Preferences and Usability for At-Home Self-Collection Using the Teal Wand | Page 13



## Nationwide 600+ Person Clinical Study Design

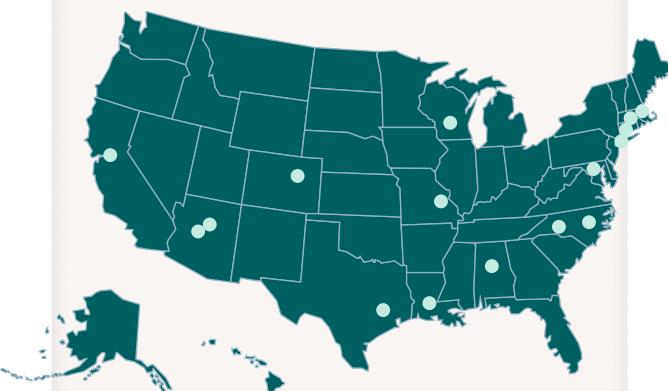
In 2024, Teal Health led a nationwide, 16-site clinical trial, titled SELF-CERV. The study was designed to validate the performance of the Teal Wand™ at-home self-collection device and compare results against a clinician-collected sample using a speculum and brush.

Given our extensive investment in designing the Teal Wand for women's preferences and experiences, Teal Health also collected feedback to ensure we are delivering on our promise of an easy-to-use, comfortable screening for all.

### SELF-CERV study

16 study sites

600+ participants  
representing US  
population demographics



### Exceeded all endpoints

95% Positive  
Percent Agreement

Equivalent to  
Clinician-Collection

### Study Design

#### 1 Self-collected sample with Teal Wand

Participant collects a sample using the Teal Wand and places in empty vial.



#### 2 Clinician-collected sample

Clinician speculum exam (and visual inspection) then collects sample, per standard of care.



#### 3 Surveys

Participant completes surveys to provide feedback on self-collection usability and both collection experiences.

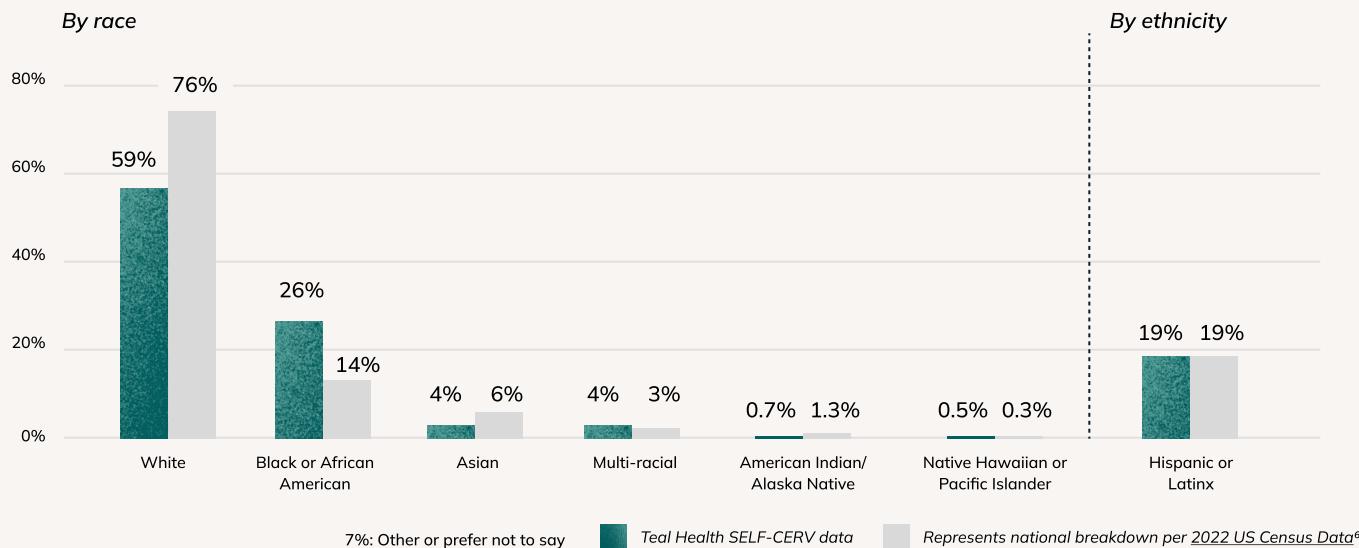
- Both samples processed on Roche cobas Primary HPV assay
- Safety evaluated acutely and up to 2 weeks following

**No serious or unanticipated adverse events, no device malfunctions**

## PART 1

# Study Demographics and Overall Participation

The SELF-CERV study, which included more than 600 participants representing different ages, races, ethnicities, education levels, socioeconomic statuses, and sexual orientations, collected a comprehensive range of perspectives and health experiences, enabling conclusions that are widely applicable.



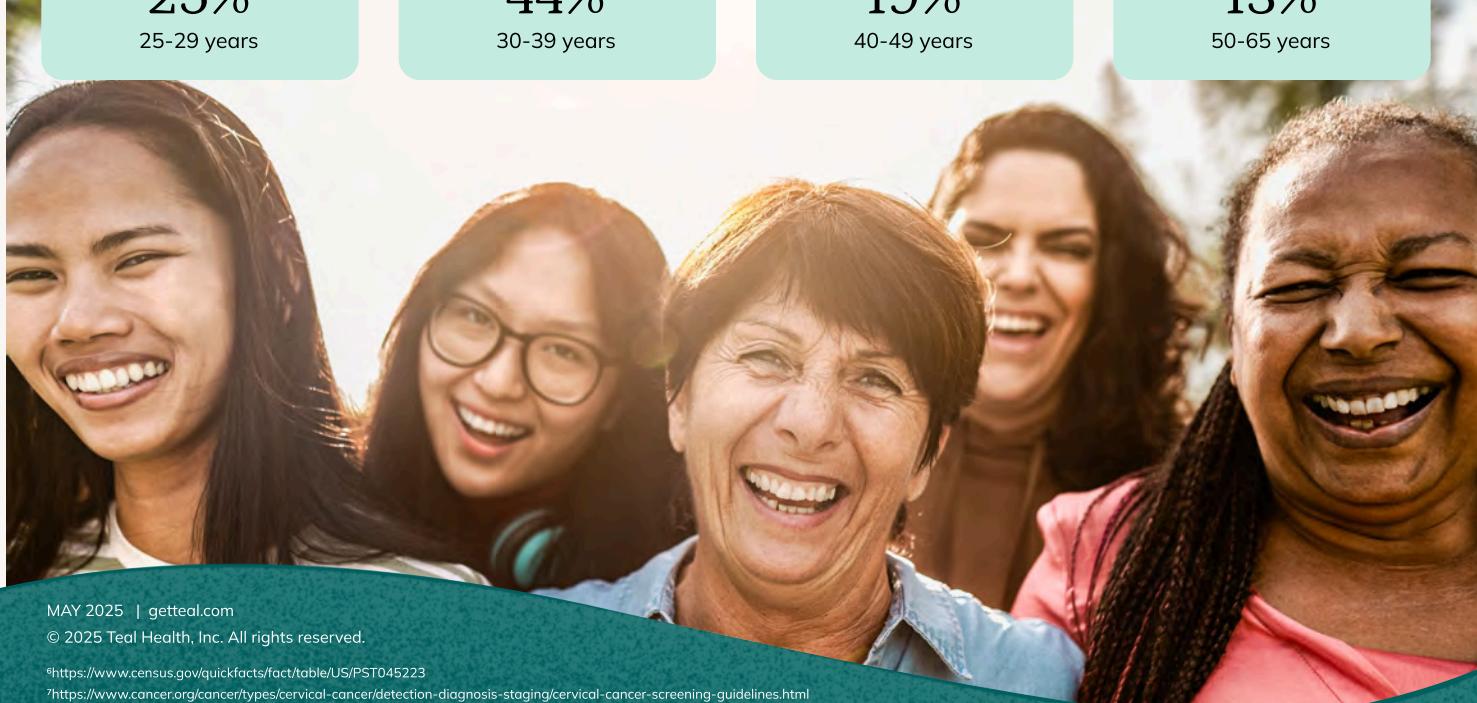
Per the [American Cancer Society's guidelines](#)<sup>7</sup>, cervical cancer screening using Primary HPV is recommended for women and people with a cervix between 25-65 years of age. Within this screening range, Teal Health's study participants were:

**25%**  
25-29 years

**44%**  
30-39 years

**19%**  
40-49 years

**13%**  
50-65 years



## PART 1

# Study Demographics and Overall Participation

Those who are non-heterosexual are 50% less likely to engage in routine cervical cancer screening (in-clinic speculum exams), which puts them at higher risk for cervical dysplasia and cancer.<sup>8,9</sup> Their lower screening engagement can stem from higher rates of sexual trauma and providers' implicit biases, resulting in healthcare disparities and hesitancy to seek care in a clinic setting.<sup>10</sup>

The SELF-CERV study shows that at-home self-collection is a critical option, which could allow more people of diverse sexualities and gender identities to participate in routine life-saving cancer screening.



*SELF-CERV study participants by sexual orientation*

13%

Non-heterosexual

86%

Heterosexual

1% preferred not to reply

Bisexual

SELF-CERV

7%

U.S. population

6%

Gay/Lesbian

SELF-CERV

2%

U.S. population

2%

Pansexual/Queer

SELF-CERV

4%

 Teal Health SELF-CERV data

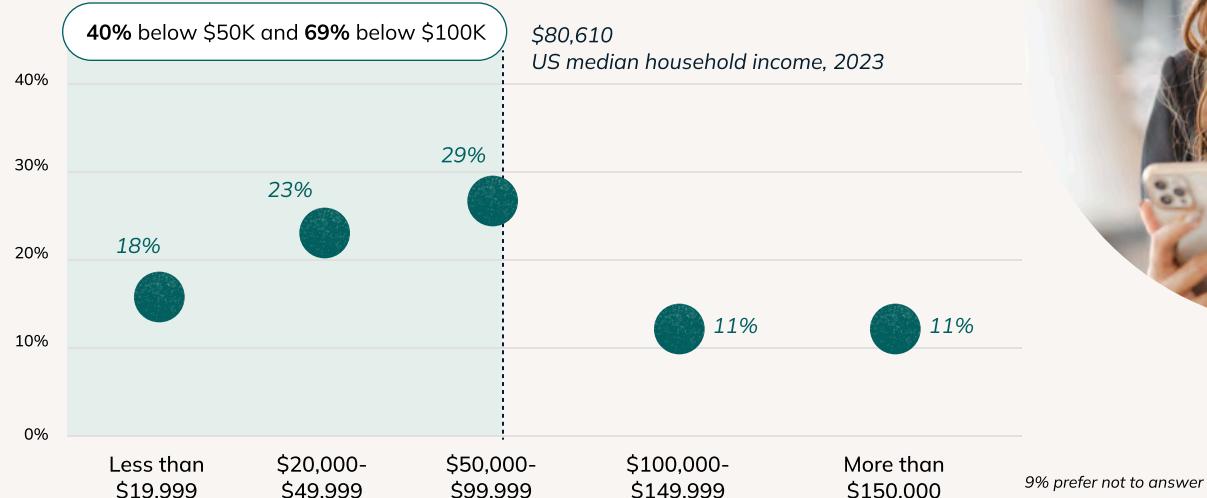
 GALLUP<sup>11</sup> U.S. data, sexual orientation

## PART 1

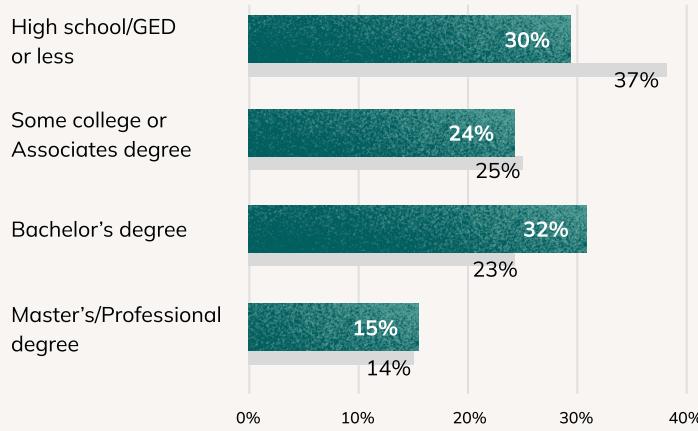
# Study Demographics and Overall Participation



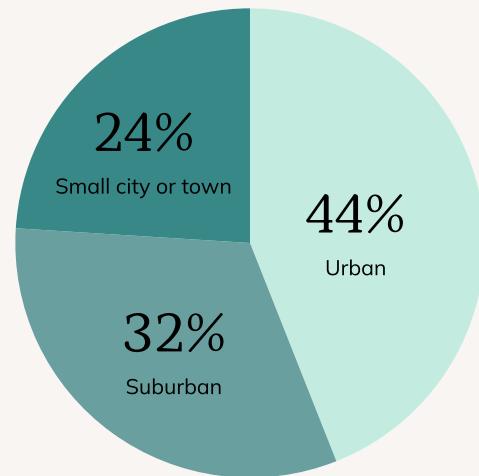
### Annual household income



### Education level



### Where they reside



 Teal Health SELF-CERV data

 Represents national breakdown per [2022 US Census Data<sup>12</sup>](#)

<sup>12</sup><https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/educational-attainment-data.html>

## PART 2

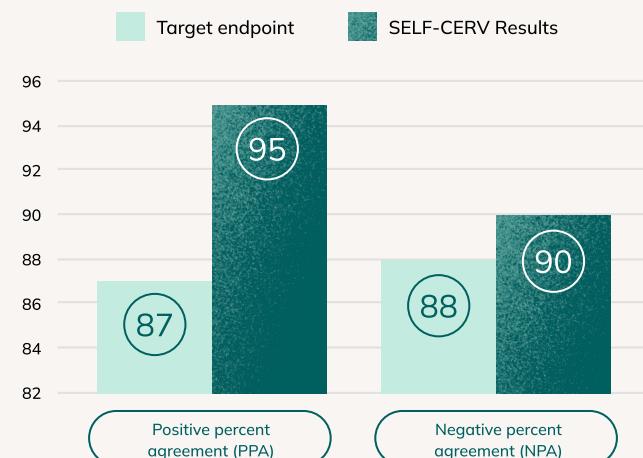
# Clinical Outcomes for HPV Detection Using the Teal Wand

### Positive Percent Agreement

The key clinical endpoint of the SELF-CERV study was to evaluate Positive Percent Agreement (PPA), which is the percentage of self-collected samples that were correctly identified as “HPV positive” when compared to clinician-collected results that were HPV positive.

In other words, PPA tells us **how many self-collected samples using the Wand matched the clinician-collected samples in detecting HPV infections**. This is the most important outcome in determining the effectiveness of at-home self-collection using the Teal Wand.

**Teal exceeded endpoints on both these measures, with a 95% Positive Percent Agreement and a 90% Negative Percent Agreement.**



### Sensitivity

It is critical that any cervical cancer screening test is able to detect an HPV infection early, as a precancer, before it has progressed into cancerous cell changes. These precancers are classified as low- or high-grade in terms of severity and risk for developing into cervical cancer. Almost all cervical precancers result from HPV infections.

We analyzed how well the Teal Wand (compared to the clinician-collection) was able to detect precancer related to high-risk HPV.

The Teal Wand accurately detected HPV when precancer was present 96% of the time, which is the same as the clinicians' collection.

Identifying HPV infections at this stage allows a person to seek follow-up care and preventive interventions to ensure that cervical cancer does not develop.

**96% Sensitivity**

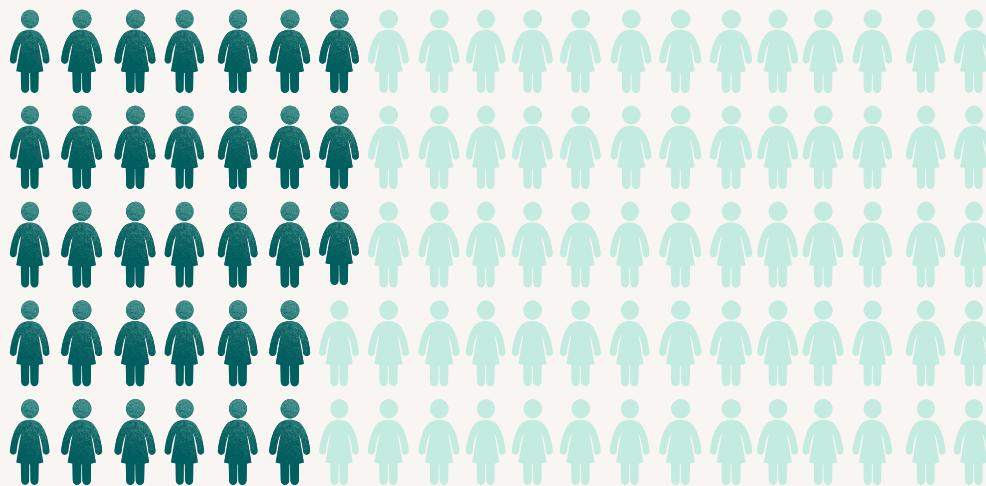
The same sensitivity as clinician-collection for detecting HPV when precancer is present.



### PART 3

## Delays and Barriers to In-Clinic Cervical Cancer Screening

Similar to existing research, our data show that women and people with a cervix delaying or avoiding their cervical cancer screenings is a widespread issue. We see this across demographic sub-groups, and emphasize that this issue is not isolated to any one group of women. Moreover, we see that the barriers to screening and the negative experiences women associate with in-clinic speculum exams are widely shared.



**33%**

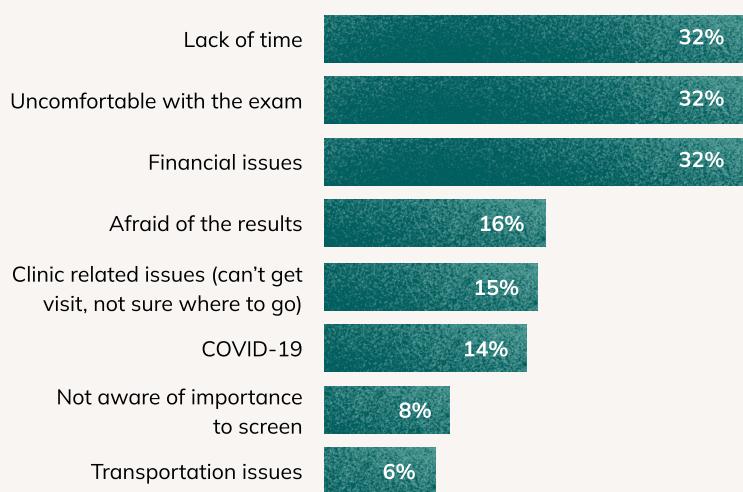
Yes, have delayed or avoided screening

**67%**

No, have not delayed or avoided screening



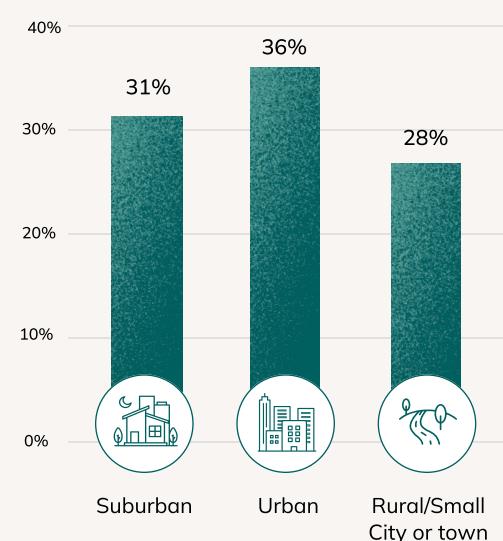
Reasons participants delay cervical cancer screening



SELF-CERV study participants could select multiple reasons



Delayed or avoided cervical cancer screening, by where they reside



 Teal Health SELF-CERV data

### PART 3

## Delays and Barriers to In-Clinic Cervical Cancer Screening



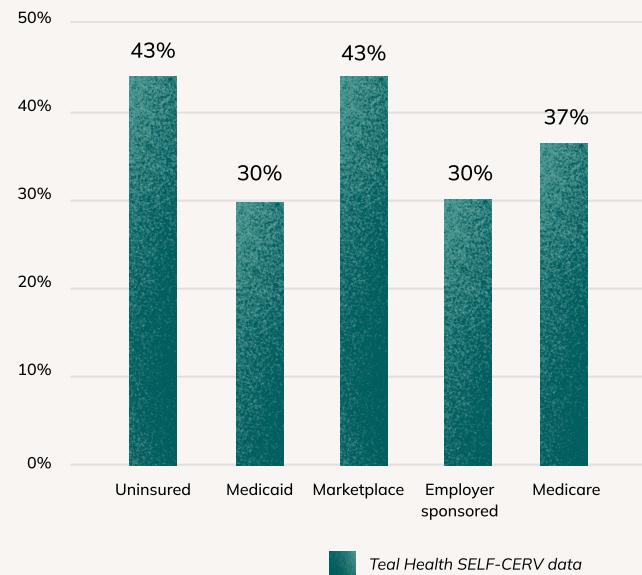
### By insurance coverage

We can see that there are widespread delays regardless of insurance type or status.

Underscreening is not only an issue of being uninsured.

Within the SELF-CERV study, of everyone who has some form of insurance, 32% reported delaying their cervical cancer screening.

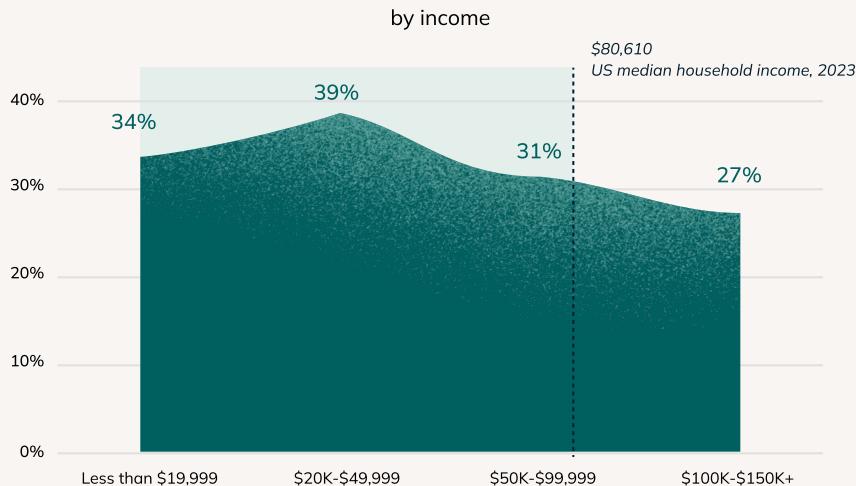
Percentage of women who have delayed or avoided cervical cancer screening, by insurance type



### By income

Similarly, by income, we see that reported delaying of cervical cancer screening is a consistent issue across income groups.

Percentage of women who delay cervical cancer screening, by income



Teal Health SELF-CERV data



### PART 3

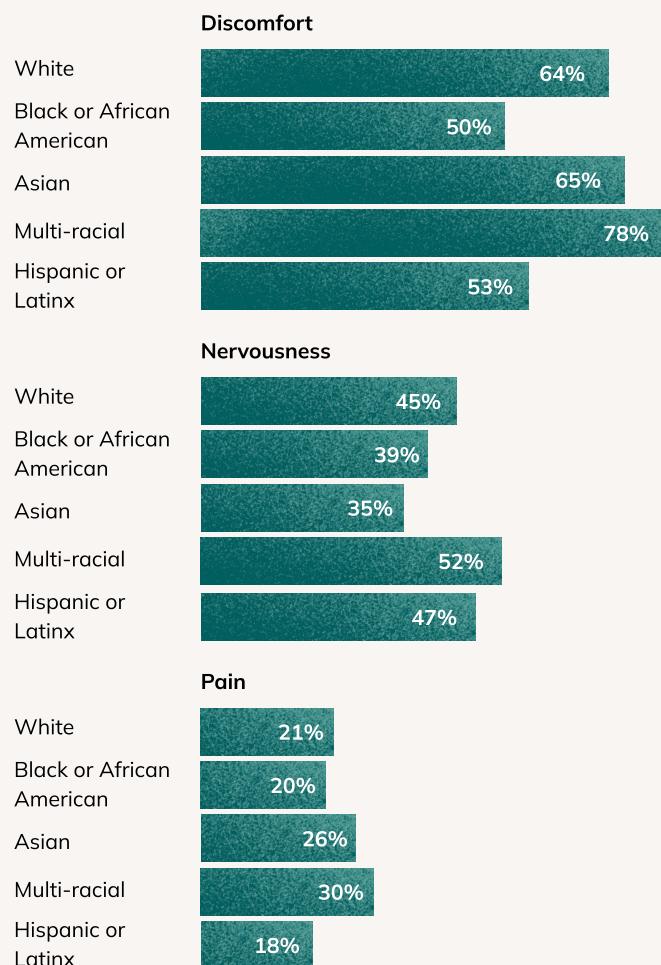
## Delays and Barriers to In-Clinic Cervical Cancer Screening

Further, we see that women across demographic groups share in their negative and challenging experiences of in-clinic cervical cancer screenings that use the speculum. These negative experiences can be a deterrent to women getting screened routinely – leading them to delay or avoid their cervical cancer screenings.

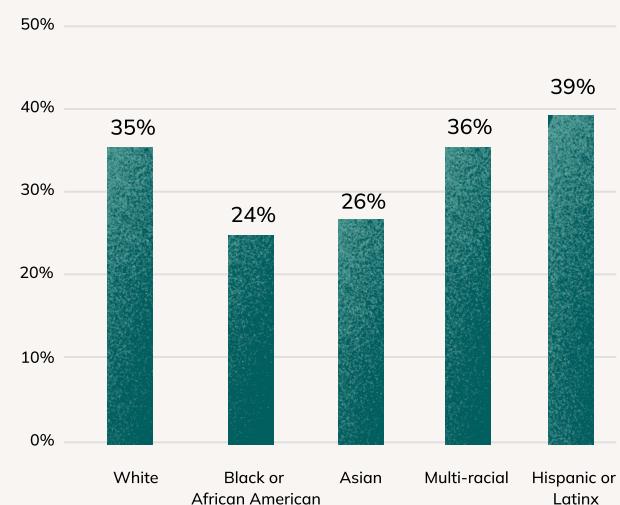
These data shows us the importance of taking women's experiences seriously, designing for a more comfortable, private, and empowering self-collection so that more women routinely engage in life-saving preventive screening.



Experiences and feelings around cervical cancer screenings with a speculum and brush



Delayed or avoided cervical cancer screening, by race and ethnicity



**PART 4**

## Preferences and Usability for At-home Self-collection Using the Teal Wand

**Preferences**

Women and people with a cervix in the SELF-CERV study prefer to do their cervical cancer screening with the Teal Wand, which enables trusted at-home self-collection. They find screening with the Teal Wand to be comfortable and empowering. They report that the Teal Wand was easy to use and that they felt confident using it. These are markedly different experiences from the challenges and negative feelings they associated with clinician-collected screenings.

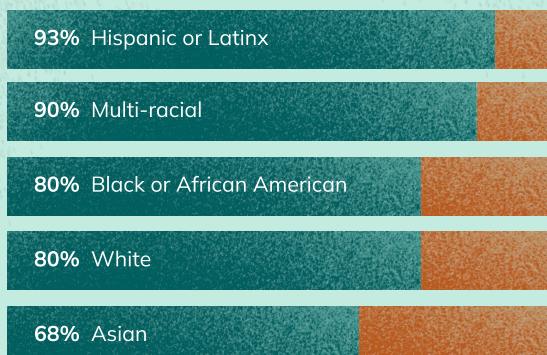


Compared to screening experiences with a healthcare provider, how **comfortable** was your experience with the Teal Wand?



Performing my own cervical cancer screening makes me *feel empowered* or *in more control* of my experience?

True:



## PART 4

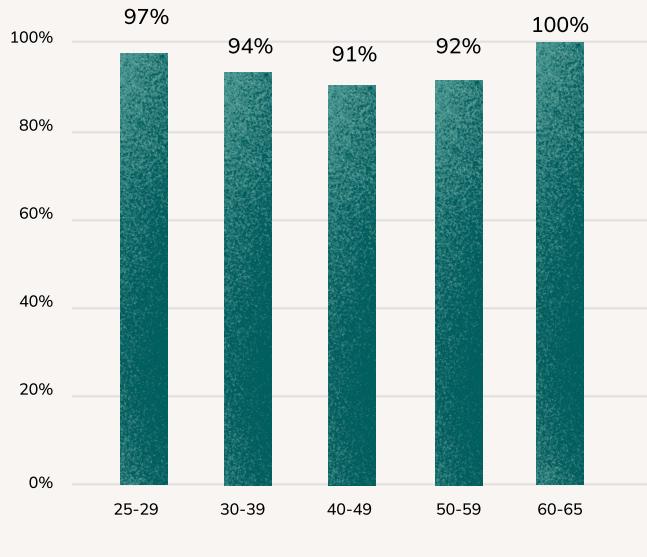
# Preferences and Usability for At-home Self-collection Using the Teal Wand

Critical to eradicating cervical cancer, women report that having the Teal Wand as a screening option would make them more likely to engage in routine cervical cancer screening, which is essential for early cancer detection and prevention. We see clearly how experience matters – improving women's screening experience improves their screening engagement, which in turn can improve their overall health outcomes.

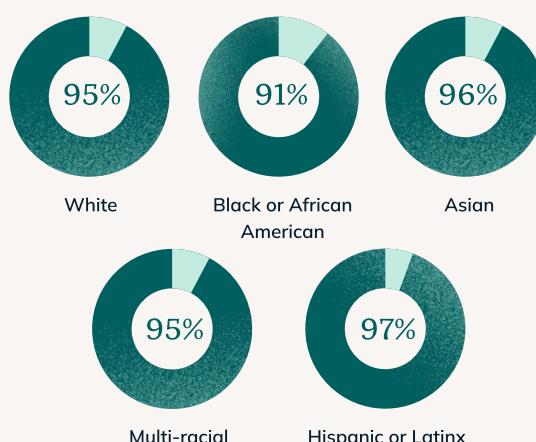
# 94%

**Prefer the Teal Wand self-collection** over in-person screening with a clinician, if they know the results are reliable

Screening with the Teal Wand is highly preferred across women of all ages for whom cervical cancer screening is medically recommended.



Screening with the Teal Wand is highly preferred across women of all races and ethnicities.



Menopause can bring on more pain or discomfort when screening with the speculum and brush.

Of the 18% of participants that were perimenopausal or menopausal:

**61%**

experienced discomfort during their screening with a clinician and speculum

**86%**

found their screening to be as or more comfortable with the Teal Wand than with a clinician and speculum

## PART 4

# Preferences and Usability for At-home Self-collection Using the Teal Wand

### Usability

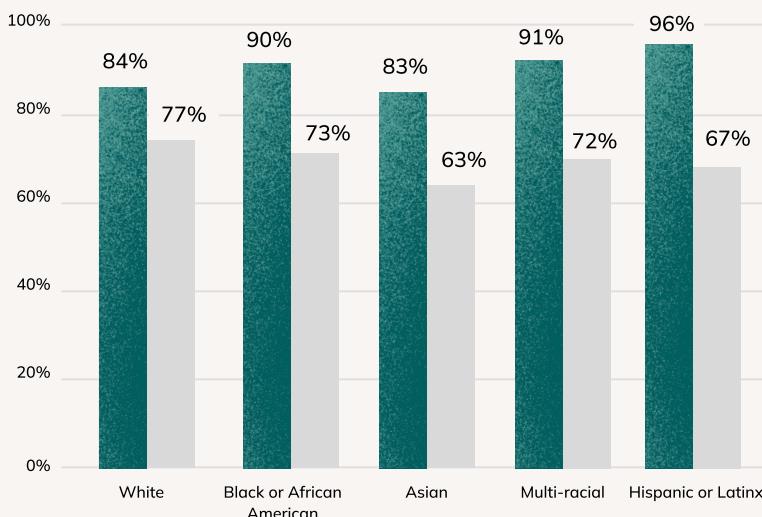
Not only was the Teal Wand a comfortable and empowering experience, women found it easy to use and could readily complete their self-collected screening relying on the Teal Wand and accompanying instruction booklet from Teal Health. This is what makes screening at home with the Teal Wand feasible and effective, allowing women to self-collect their sample conveniently and privately, on their own time and in their own space.

86%

Would be **more likely to stay up-to-date** with an at-home option like the Teal Wand. This could have a significant impact on improving health outcomes and eliminating cervical cancer.

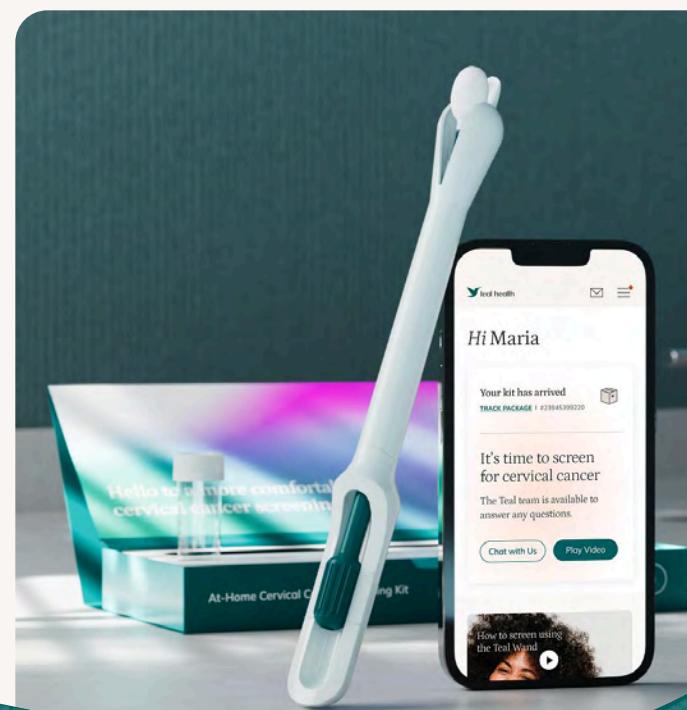
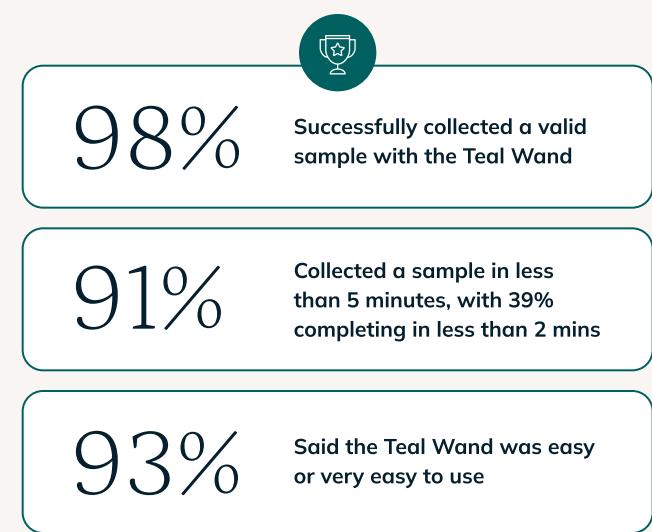


Across racial and ethnic groups, the Teal Wand could increase screening engagement by up to 20% from where it is today.



 Teal Health SELF-CERV data  Cervical cancer screening rates by race, [Healthy People 2030](#)<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup><https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/increase-proportion-females-who-get-screened-cervical-cancer-c-09/data>



## Hear directly from our study participants

"I like that there's no speculum involved. If the results are accurate, and no speculum, it's a 10! Also, takes way less time."

"It is easy and since I take public transportation, more convenient. I have major anxiety and it takes a lot to prepare myself for going out to appointments."

"I like the privacy. I like that I was not embarrassed by the thought of opening my legs for someone else to do it."

"Just having control of the environment, having privacy, and easy access is wonderful."

"Enjoyed being able to relax more during self collection versus being stiff/stressed for provider collection."

"I think this is incredibly convenient and effective to do an at home screening. For people who don't live near a clinic, this is a great option."

"Could be very helpful for women with PTSD/sexual trauma that gets triggered during these exams."

"The privacy aspect is a big deal for me, and I have several friends who have expressed discomfort at having to be spread eagle with their feet in stirrups."

"For someone who is uncomfortable with this test, this would provide the patient control over the experience with the utmost privacy as well as feelings of being safe in the place they choose to do it."

"I think it's wonderful to have the option for self screening for people that are sensitive or have previous trauma (sexually)."

"It is convenient for those patients that are on the go and are unable to get time off, don't have a ride, child care."



## Final thoughts

1. The Teal Wand accurately detected HPV when precancer was present 96% of the time, **which is the same as clinician collection**.
2. There is **power in listening to women** and people with a cervix when they share their experiences and needs, and designing for those goals. All we had to do was ask women – who came from all walks of life – if they wanted to try the Teal Wand, and they **overwhelmingly said 'yes' and preferred the experience**.
3. Not only did the Teal Wand address women's shared and very relatable challenges with today's in-clinic speculum screening, but it was a much better experience that would make them **more likely to engage in routine screening**, rather than putting it off.

