

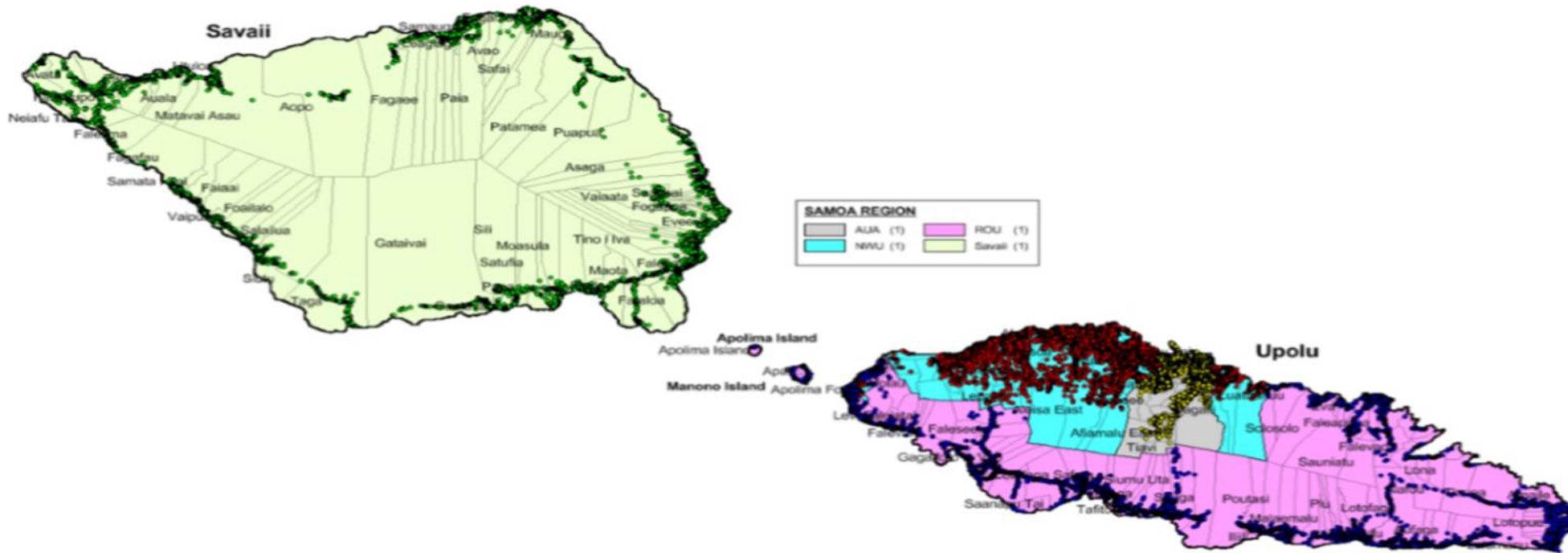


Screening for Cervical cancer in Samoa

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CANCER
A shared agenda for Aotearoa, Australia and Pacific nations



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Samoa

- Burden - ? High
- No National Cervical Cancer Prevention Program
- Opportunistic
- Limited Infrastructure to develop Cxca Prevention program
 - Human resources (specialised)
 - Physical resources
 - Socio-cultural issues
 - **Similar to other PI countries**

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Acceptability of Self-Sampling HPV Tests Amongst Health workers women from both urban and rural settings in Samoa

- Interviewed health workers x 6
- Focus group discussions x2 – Urban and Rural
- Explored what they knew about cervical cancer and its prevention
- I explained cervical cancer and its prevention
- Resources for pap smears and potential self-sampling test
 - Information pamphlet, pictures, power point presentation



- Acceptability of self-sampling
- Explored potential cervical cancer prevention program using SS
- Barriers/Issues
 - System limitations – Human/physical (laboratory/follow up)
 - Awareness
 - Cultural beliefs (modesty- ?imported)/ma’l palagi/ ?prevention
 - Community benefit vs individual
 - Literacy – Health Literacy (self awareness. ?cervical cancer)
 - Access Issues – Finances/location
 - Ignorance – Busy/other commitments/ not unwell – gender roles

- Fear of being diagnosed
 - Beliefs around Cancer = ma’l palagi = death
- Distrust of the health system and services
 - Confidentiality
 - Laboratory services
 - “hospital too big/too busy”
- Poor understanding of “Prevention”
- limited understanding of the current health services
- Misperceptions of testing

Way Forward

- Don't Assume
- Engaging stakeholders in the development
 - Women are eager to learn and know more
 - Women grateful to be included in discussions
- Political commitment - funding
 - MOH – documentation/research
- Infrastructure
 - Laboratory/Who in what roles?

Infrastructure

- Test and treatment – choosing the right test and ensure there is a treatment
- Primary Health structure – **preventative health care**
- Follow up/recall
- APPROACH – RELATIONSHIPS
 - Within the health system...
 - Between the health system..
 - With stakeholders and public
 - International support



Faafetai Soifua



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