

## Background

- During the pandemic the **Carefirst Family Health Team (FHT)** started working closely with the **High Priorities Communities Strategy Program (HPCSP)**
- The program strives to improve the **health equity** for those communities that are more vulnerable
- In consultation with the partners, Carefirst and the 30+ partners identified **women's health literacy** and **preventative cancer screening** as a critical service gap for immigrant women from both **East Asian** and **South Asian** women

## Objectives

- To better **understand the health inequities** that exist within our communities and how to address them
- To learn about the power of leveraging **primary care clinical skills** and **expertise** and **community partner relationships** to deliver care and education
- To take away experiences that have been successful to **replicate** and **expand** to other communities in need

## Methods

- Over the Summer of 2022, the HPCSP and the Carefirst FHT worked collaboratively to develop several women's health focused education sessions by industry experts and delivered them to the community
- In total, **9 women's health education sessions** were delivered in either **Cantonese** or **Mandarin**
- Sessions focused on **Cervical Cancer**, **Postpartum Depression** and **Endometriosis**
- In the Fall of 2022, the **Mobile Pap Smear Clinic** was launched offering women convenient access to cervical cancer screening

## Observations and Results

- The services and programs delivered in partnership highlights the power of leveraging expertise and relationships
- Together, we were able to improve the health literacy and cancer screening rates of a **marginalized and vulnerable patient population**
- From the evaluations conducted, **100%** of the participants felt it was valuable and better educated and **98.5%** would recommend the sessions to family and friends
- Through the **Mobile Pap Smear Clinics**, in 2022/23 we were able to attach **26 women** to a **primary care physician** for ongoing comprehensive care
- As of May 2023/24, we managed to attach **5 additional patients** and will continue to identify these opportunities as the clinics continue

98.5% of workshop participants would recommend sessions to family and friends

## Specific actions that participants stated they would take to improve their health after the workshops include:

"Pay closer attention to see if there are any changes to my body and health."

"Go for regular screening tests."

"Maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce stress."

"Check whether I am due for the next test. If yes, I will make an appointment with the family doctor or find a pap test clinic."

"Make an HPV vaccination appointment for my child."

## Future Directions

We were able to leverage the presentation content to deliver a session at a large scale Community Health Fair and will continue to identify opportunities to further educate more women in these communities. Presentations have been delivered in various venues in the community including; **Islamic Society of Markham**, **Markham South Welcome Centre**, **Richmond Hill Welcome Centre**, **Sanatan Mandir Culture Centre**, **SENECA College**, **Women's Support Network**, **YMCA Markham** and more are in discussion.

The **Mobile Pap Smear Clinics** have continued to operate for a total of **17 clinic dates** with **93 pap tests** completed and further partnerships with the Ontario Health Teams are underway.

