

# Women with Disabilities and Breast Cancer Screening



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## Early Detection of Breast Cancer Can Save Lives

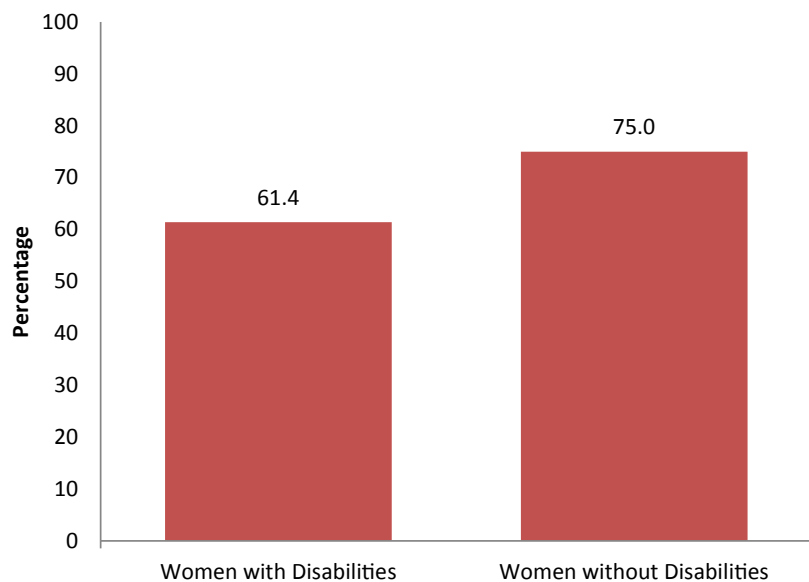
Among women in the United States, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. A mammogram is an X-ray picture of the breast. Getting mammograms regularly is the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easiest to treat.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that women between the ages of 50-74 years should have a screening mammogram every two years. Women between the ages of 40-49 years should talk to their doctor about when and how often they should have a screening mammogram.<sup>1</sup>

## Women with Disabilities and Mammography

Studies show that women with disabilities are less likely than women without disabilities to have received a mammogram during the past two years.<sup>2</sup>

**Percentage of U.S. Adult Women 50-74 Years of Age Who Received a Mammogram During the Past 2 Years, by Disability Status 2010 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)\***



\*CDC/NCHS. National Health Interview Survey Data, 2010<sup>2</sup>.

In most states, women with disabilities are less likely to have received a mammogram during the past two years than women without disabilities. Interested in your state? Use the table below to determine the percentage of women with disabilities receiving a mammogram compared to women without disabilities.

State-level Percentage of Women 50-74 Years of Age who Reported Receiving a Mammogram During the Past 2 Years by Disability Status – 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)*							
State or Area	Women With Disabilities			Women Without Disabilities			Disparity <sup>†</sup>
	Population Estimate <sup>§</sup>	%	95% CI** (±)	Population Estimate	%	95% CI (±)	
Alabama	224,198	72.3	3.8	386,073	81.0	2.8	-8.7
Alaska	17,993	69.9	9.4	41,160	76.6	6.3	-6.7
Arizona	241,708	75.6	6.2	526,629	80.2	4.3	-4.6
Arkansas	100,019	72.8	5.2	189,778	75.8	3.7	-3.0
California	1,023,371	80.6	2.5	2,431,757	84.8	1.7	-4.2
Colorado	132,197	74.8	3.2	329,014	76.8	2.1	-2.0
Connecticut	101,616	81.4	4.3	311,852	87.6	2.3	-6.2
Delaware	32,615	81.8	4.7	73,897	85.6	2.8	-3.8
District of Columbia	21,679	84.9	5.1	56,534	87.1	3.0	-2.2
Florida	750,068	79.1	2.9	1,592,349	81.4	2.2	-2.3
Georgia	308,112	78.1	4.1	682,237	84.2	2.6	-6.1
Hawaii	31,864	77.8	4.9	109,605	82.0	2.8	-4.2
Idaho	43,237	66.4	4.4	87,239	71.2	3.0	-4.8
Illinois	351,920	75.3	5.1	907,164	77.0	3.2	-1.7
Indiana	191,709	73.3	3.5	435,920	79.3	2.3	-6.0
Iowa	83,882	74.6	4.5	239,550	82.8	2.4	-8.2
Kansas	90,341	78.7	3.1	208,877	82.2	2.0	-3.5
Kentucky	165,339	71.8	3.7	291,847	78.6	2.8	-6.8
Louisiana	154,026	75.7	3.3	315,756	80.8	2.2	-5.1
Maine	49,975	78.8	3.3	126,177	87.3	1.8	-8.5
Maryland	184,135	81.9	3.7	461,926	87.2	2.0	-5.3
Massachusetts	185,732	86.2	2.9	581,643	90.5	1.5	-4.3
Michigan	360,003	80.2	3.0	769,269	83.4	2.1	-3.2
Minnesota	140,299	83.2	3.9	438,484	86.6	2.2	-3.4
Mississippi	100,552	66.8	3.8	183,309	75.1	2.6	-8.3
Missouri	189,920	70.3	5.5	409,409	78.3	3.7	-8.0
Montana	34,892	73.8	4.1	67,739	71.8	3.0	2.0
Nebraska	45,106	72.4	4.0	128,113	77.6	2.3	-5.2
Nevada	68,018	64.1	7.2	158,267	74.8	4.9	-10.7
New Hampshire	44,209	81.8	3.8	115,856	86.1	2.2	-4.3
New Jersey	230,166	78.8	3.9	685,723	81.9	2.1	-3.1
New Mexico	58,762	75.0	4.0	146,383	76.8	2.6	-1.8

**State-level Percentage of Women 50-74 Years of Age who Reported Receiving a Mammogram During the Past 2 Years by Disability Status – 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)\***

State or Area	Women With Disabilities			Women Without Disabilities			Disparity <sup>†</sup>
	Population Estimate <sup>§</sup>	%	95% CI** (±)	Population Estimate	%	95% CI (±)	
New York	633,872	79.0	3.2	1,499,424	83.5	2.1	-4.5
North Carolina	324,033	78.0	3.4	700,448	83.9	2.0	-5.9
North Dakota	15,589	75.2	5.1	49,228	81.1	2.7	-5.9
Ohio	374,999	72.2	3.7	843,697	81.2	2.2	-9.0
Oklahoma	130,618	66.4	3.5	228,714	73.9	2.6	-7.5
Oregon	145,981	74.6	4.0	260,962	79.1	2.9	-4.5
Pennsylvania	391,093	76.1	3.5	988,960	80.3	2.1	-4.2
Rhode Island	34,362	80.1	4.1	88,739	89.1	1.9	-9.0
South Carolina	177,220	76.0	4.1	352,016	83.1	2.4	-7.1
South Dakota	24,187	76.2	4.5	61,452	82.8	2.4	-6.6
Tennessee	240,542	78.4	4.1	456,825	80.7	3.0	-2.3
Texas	608,804	69.4	3.8	1,495,157	75.6	2.4	-6.2
Utah	55,431	66.8	4.2	143,053	76.4	2.5	-9.6
Vermont	21,531	81.0	3.7	56,231	84.1	2.1	-3.1
Virginia	252,131	75.0	5.1	563,449	81.6	3.6	-6.6
Washington	251,794	75.1	2.2	458,721	81.5	1.6	-6.4
West Virginia	70,941	70.8	4.6	141,690	79.7	3.1	-8.9
Wisconsin	164,887	79.6	5.4	453,633	82.4	3.1	-2.8
Wyoming	14,987	67.6	4.3	37,163	73.6	2.8	-6.0
Guam	DS <sup>††</sup>	DS	DS	7,744	72.9	8.8	--
Puerto Rico	103,814	81.8	5.3	311,066	82.2	3.0	-0.4
Virgin Islands	1,213	63.4	10.8	6,890	69.0	5.3	-5.6

\* CDC. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data, 2010.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Disparity is the percentage point difference in people with a disability compared to people without a disability.

<sup>§</sup> The estimated number of women 50-74 who reported receiving a mammogram in the past two years.

<sup>¶</sup> Estimates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

\*\* CI denotes confidence interval.

<sup>††</sup> DS: Data suppressed due to small sample size (N<50).

*Health promotion campaigns and messages about breast cancer screening that are specifically designed to include women with disabilities may reduce these disparities in mammography use. CDC is working with its state partners to improve mammography use among women with disabilities.*



## What is CDC Doing to Improve the Use of Mammography Among Women with Disabilities?

Health promotion campaigns and messages about breast cancer screening that are specifically designed to include women with disabilities may reduce these disparities in mammography use. CDC is working with its state partners to improve mammography use among women with disabilities.

### Florida

The Florida Office on Disability and Health is increasing the number of train-the-trainer sessions on mammograms and women with disabilities.

The highlights of the program include:

- Educating women with disabilities on how to prepare for a mammogram, how to get regular breast cancer screening, and how to locate local disability accessible mammography facilities.
- Providing tips to health professionals on how to improve their mammography services for women with disabilities.
- Partnering with the Florida Board of Radiologic Technology in the Florida Department of Health to develop and promote radiology technology disability training.

### Rhode Island

The Rhode Island (R.I.) Disability and Health Program is ensuring that women with disabilities have access to mammograms.

The highlights of the program include:

- Collaborating with the R.I. Department of Health's Division of Community, Family Health and Equity to inform women with disabilities on locations of disability accessible mammography facilities with accessible mammography equipment.
- Working with the R.I. Department of Health's Cancer Screening Program to make sure that screening mammograms are available and accessible to women with disabilities.



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### **NCBDDD Atlanta:**

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333 Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348  
Visit CDC: [www.cdc.gov/disabilities](http://www.cdc.gov/disabilities) | Contact CDC: [cdc.gov/info](http://cdc.gov/info)

## **North Carolina**

The North Carolina Office on Disability and Health is working to educate health care professionals about the specific needs of and appropriate communication with women with disabilities.

The highlights of the program include:

- Supporting the Women Be Healthy health education curriculum, which teaches women with intellectual and developmental disabilities about breast cancer screening.
- Providing education and training about women with disabilities to North Carolina's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, which offers free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings.

### **Resources**

CDC's Disability and Health Information

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/>

CDC's Breast Cancer Information

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/>

CDC's Breast Cancer Screening Information

[http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic\\_info/screening.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/screening.htm)

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Summary of Recommendations on Breast Cancer Screening

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf09/breastcancer/brcanrs.htm>

### **References**

1. Screening for Breast Cancer, Topic Page. July 2010. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf09/breastcancer/brcanrs.htm>
2. Courtney-Long E, Armour B, Frammartino B, Miller J. Factors associated with self-reported mammography use for women with and women without a disability. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2011; 20:1279-1286.
3. Data File Documentation, National Health Interview Survey, 2010 (machine readable data file and documentation). National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hyattsville, Maryland. 2010. Disclaimer: The NHIS analyses in this report are those of the authors and not NCHS, which is responsible only for the initial data.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010.