

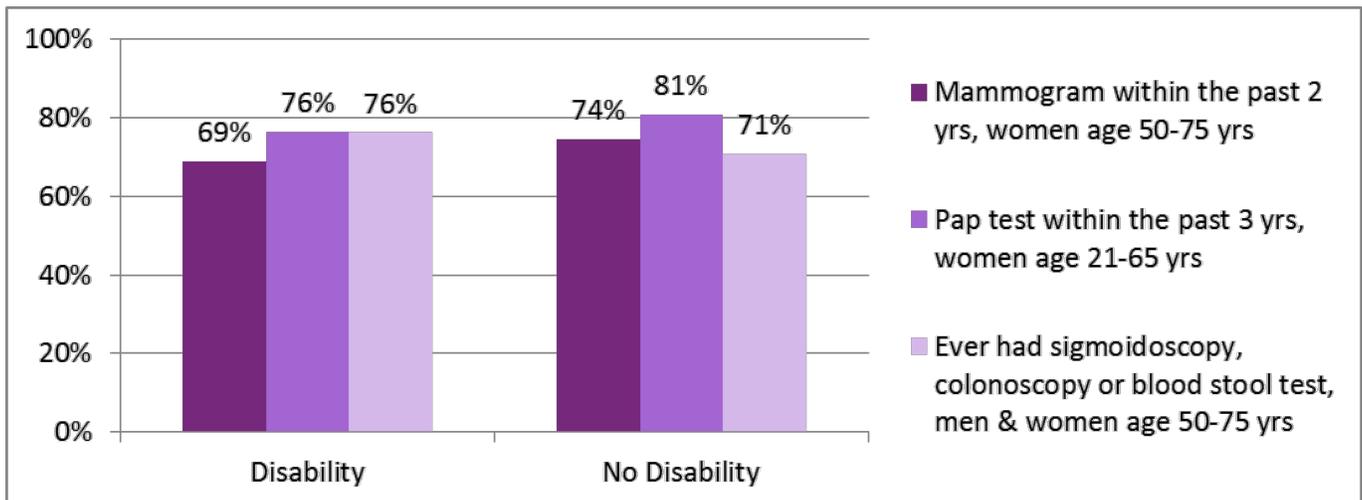
# Cancer Screening among Oregonians with Disabilities

Created by the Oregon Office on Disability & Health [www.oodh.org](http://www.oodh.org)

Appropriate screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer are important for reducing the incidence of these cancers and cancer-related deaths. Breast cancer is the leading form of cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death among women in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Among men and women, colorectal cancer is the third most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death.<sup>1</sup> Although the incidence of cervical cancer and resulting mortality has decreased dramatically with the implementation of widespread cervical cancer screening, most cases of cervical cancer are among women who have not been appropriately screened.<sup>2,3</sup> We examined recommended screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer among Oregonians with and without disabilities using the most recent data (2012) from a telephone survey called the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

## This is what we learned in Oregon

**Figure 1: Cancer Screening by Disability in Oregon**



We found small differences in cancer screening between Oregonians with disabilities and those without disabilities.

- 69% of women age 50-75 years with a disability had received a mammogram within the past 2 years compared to 74% of those without a disability in the same age group
- 76% of women age 21-65 years with a disability had received a Pap test within the past 3 years compared to 81% of women without a disability in the same age group
- 76% of Oregonians (men & women) age 50-75 years with a disability had ever received a sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, or blood stool test compared to 71% of Oregonians without a disability in the same age group

## Comparison to Other Research

- Although differences in cancer screening between Oregonians with and without disabilities shown in this report are not large (5%), they are important.
- Other research has provided evidence that women with disabilities are less likely than their non-disabled counterparts to receive a mammogram or Pap test within the recommended time period.<sup>4,5</sup>
- It has also been demonstrated that among people 50-64 years of age, those with disabilities are slightly more likely than those without disabilities to have been screened for colorectal cancer, which is also suggested by this report.<sup>6</sup>
- In light of other research, it is likely that the small differences shown in this report actually represent real disparities in cancer screening, and women with disabilities in Oregon are less likely to be screened for breast and cervical cancer.

## Cancer Screening Resources for Women with Disabilities

The Oregon Office on Disability & Health (OODH) offers resources intended to promote breast cancer mammography screening:

- **Right to Know Campaign**, a campaign developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote mammography for women with disabilities 40 years of age and older. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/righttoknow/>
- **Mammography Accessibility Project**, a directory to inform Oregon women with disabilities about accessibility and usability of mammography facilities in their area so that they can select a facility that will best meet their needs. <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/institute-on-development-and-disability/public-health-programs/oodh-mammography-directory-map.cfm>

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2013*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Vesco KK, Whitlock EP, Eder M, Lin J, Burda BU, Senger CA, et al. Screening for cervical cancer: a systematic evidence review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Vesco KK, Whitlock EP, Eder M, Burda BU, Senger CA, Lutz K. Risk factors and other epidemiologic considerations for cervical cancer screening: a narrative review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Ann Intern Med*. 2011;155:698-705.

<sup>4</sup> Armour BS, Thierry JM, Wolf LA. State-level differences in breast and cervical cancer screening by disability status: United States, 2008. *Womens Health Issues* [serial online]. Nov-Dec 2009;19:406-414, United States.

<sup>5</sup> Courtney-Long E, Armour B, Frammartino B, et al. Factors Associated with Self-Reported Mammography Use for Women with and Women without a Disability. *Journal of Women's Health* 2011;20:1279-1286.

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Screening – United States, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. *MMWR* 2011;60(Suppl):42-46.