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Bureau for Public Health
WV Department of Health and Human Resources



OMCFH – Division of Perinatal & Women's Health

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BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM (304) 558-5388 or 1-800-642-8522

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The Problem

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among West Virginia (WV) women.
- In 2002, there were 1,242 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed among WV women.
- 268 women in WV died from breast cancer in 2002 (down from 306 in 2001).
- The incidence of female breast cancer increased markedly with age. Women between the ages of 45-64 were over four times more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, compared to women aged 25-44.
- According to the 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 22.4% of WV women aged 50-59 and 14.1% of WV women aged 60-64 have not had a mammogram within the past two years.
- From 1998-2002, invasive cervical cancer was the ninth leading cause of cancer incidence among WV women and the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in WV women aged 25-44.
- In 2002, 35 WV women died from cervical cancer and 97 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed.
- Access to preventive health services is difficult in West Virginia due to the rural nature of the state and to the limited number of healthcare providers.

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What Are We Doing About It?

- The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program has screened over 98,000 women since April 1991.
- Screening services are provided through county health departments, primary care centers, hospital outpatient clinics and private physicians' offices in accordance with nationally recognized medical standards.
- Diagnostic and treatment services are available on a limited basis through the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. On April 1, 2001, the WVBCCSP partnered with the WV Medicaid Office to offer full treatment services for Program eligible women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer.
- Outreach efforts focus on never or rarely screened, low income, uninsured/under-insured, minority, and older women (ages 50-64).
- Patient and provider education has been developed to emphasize the need for regular screening through Pap tests, mammograms, pelvic and clinical breast examinations. The education focuses on the importance of and techniques of practicing self-breast examination.
- 2004 BRFSS data shows that 82.5% of WV women aged 18 and older have had a Pap test within the past three years.
- Case management services are provided for all women who receive an abnormal screening result.