

BRFSS Brief

Number 2022-20

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and several US Territories. The New York BRFSS is administered by the New York State Department of Health to provide statewide and regional information on behaviors, risk factors, and use of preventive health services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death.

Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Females, 2020

Introduction and Key Findings

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among females in New York State (NYS), with approximately 16,800 new cases and 2,500 deaths from the disease each year.¹ Risk of breast cancer increases with age and varies across racial groups. Black females are more likely to have breast cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage and die from the disease.²

Screening for breast cancer can increase the likelihood of identifying cancer at an early stage when treatment is most successful. Females 50 to 74 years of age should be screened with a mammogram every two years. Females 40 to 49 years of age, those with a family history or other risk factors for breast cancer, and those who have any symptoms or changes in their breasts should talk to their health care provider about what screening schedule is right for them.³ Although breast cancer screening recommendations may vary between organizations, everyone should be aware of their personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with their health care provider, when to start screening.

In 2020, an estimated 82.2% of females 50 to 74 years of age had received breast cancer screening within the past two years (Figure 1), surpassing the Healthy People 2030 objective of 80.5%.⁴ Significant differences were seen by demographic characteristics and risk factors: those without health insurance, those without a regular health care provider, those who report no physical activity in the past 30 days, and those who currently smoke were all significantly less likely to report being up to date with screening (Figures 2 and 3).

Of those who reported not having received a mammogram within the past two years, 91.8% (an estimated 405,300 females) were insured and 84.8% (an estimated 390,000 females) had a regular health care provider (data not shown). These data highlight the need to better engage those who have access to health care, while also sustaining programs that provide screening to those without health insurance and a regular provider, and enhancing state and local efforts to promote screening, especially among those with known risk-factors for disease.

BRFSS Questions

1. A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer. Have you ever had a mammogram?

[If “yes”]

2. How long has it been since you had your last mammogram?

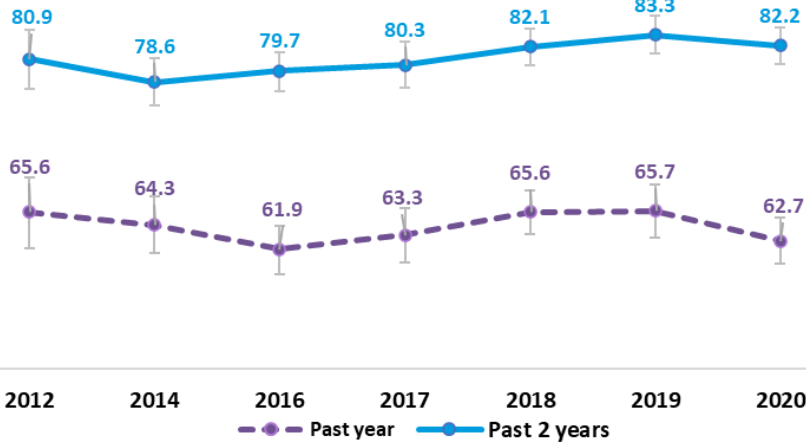
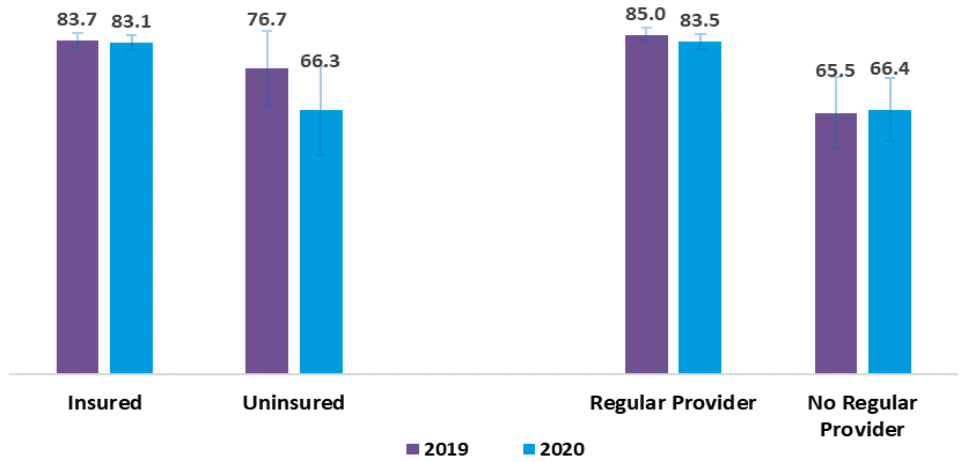


Figure 1. History of mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) as reported by New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, by BRFSS survey year from 2012 to 2020

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Figure 2. Percent of New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, reporting mammography screening within the past 2 years, by insurance and regular health care provider status, BRFSS 2019 and 2020 survey years



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

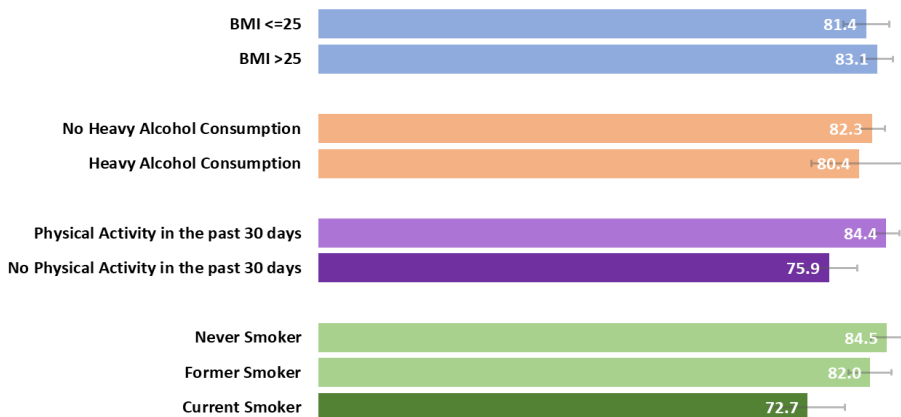


Figure 3. Percent of New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, reporting mammography screening within the past 2 years, by known risk factors for breast cancer, BRFSS survey year 2020

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Table 1. History of mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) as reported by New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, by selected characteristics, BRFSS 2020 survey

	Estimated population size ^a	Mammogram history					
		Ever		Within past year		Within past 2 years	
		% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b
Total NYS [N=3,688]	2,951	96.5	95.5-97.4	62.7	60.4-65.0	82.2	80.4-84.0
Age Group							
50-64	1,928	95.7	94.4-97.0	61.9	59.0-64.8	80.8	78.4-83.3
65-74	1,022	97.9	96.8-99.0	64.2	60.4-67.9	84.6	82.0-87.3
Race/Ethnicity							
Asian, non-Hispanic	167	92.2	84.0-100	56.0	38.8-73.2	76.4	61.6-91.1
Black, non-Hispanic	392	95.0	91.9-98.1	56.4	49.5-63.3	82.7	77.6-87.8
Hispanic	424	96.2	92.9-99.5	65.2	58.0-72.4	85.8	80.5-91.1
Other race, multiracial, non-Hispanic ^c	79	96.6	92.9-100	53.3	39.3-67.3	77.2	67.3-87.0
White, non-Hispanic	1,834	97.3	96.4-98.1	64.4	61.9-66.9	82.2	80.2-84.3
Annual household income							
< \$25,000	538	97.1	95.1-99.0	59.7	53.8-65.6	78.4	73.8-83.0
\$25,000 - <\$50,000	430	93.5	89.5-97.5	55.7	49.4-62.0	77.9	72.5-83.3
≥ \$50,000	1,293	97.1	96.0-98.2	66.4	63.2-69.5	84.7	82.2-87.2
Missing ^d	689	96.5	94.7-98.4	61.8	56.8-66.8	82.8	78.9-86.7
Educational attainment							
Less than high school	335	94.9	90.9-99.0	58.8	49.7-67.9	79.8	72.7-86.9
High school or GED	736	95.1	92.8-97.5	60.1	55.3-64.9	78.2	74.2-82.2
Some post-high school	820	96.8	95.2-98.4	65.6	61.4-69.8	83.0	79.8-86.2
College graduate	1,044	97.5	96.6-98.5	63.2	59.9-66.5	84.8	82.1-87.5
Healthcare coverage							
Medicaid	318	97.0	94.4-99.5	60.8	52.8-68.9	80.6	74.6-86.6
Medicare	764	97.8	96.6-99.0	65.9	61.7-70.1	86.0	83.2-88.8
No insurance	136	94.4	89.5-99.2	47.0	34.8-59.2	66.3	55.1-77.4
Other insurance	86	89.6*	77.7-100	40.4	25.8-55.0	75.1	61.4-88.7
Private insurance	1,549	96.1	94.8-97.5	64.6	61.5-67.6	82.6	80.1-85.2
Regular health care provider							
Yes	2,682	96.9	95.9-97.8	63.5	61.1-65.9	83.5	81.7-85.4
No	248	91.9	87.6-96.3	52.3	43.5-61.0	66.4	58.5-74.4
Disability^e							
Yes	792	97.1	95.6-98.6	57.5	53.1-61.9	78.7	75.2-82.3
No	1,958	96.4	95.3-97.5	64.9	62.3-67.6	83.8	81.6-85.9
Residence							
New York City (NYC)	1,144	95.4	93.4-97.4	58.4	54.1-62.7	82.0	78.6-85.5
NYS excluding NYC	1,807	97.1	96.2-98.0	65.3	62.7-67.8	82.3	80.2-84.4

^a Estimated population size based on weighted frequencies from BRFSS, in thousands. Excludes individuals with missing data on each characteristic of interest.

^b %=Percentage; 95% CI=Confidence Interval. Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

^c American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Other, or Multiracial.

^d "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^e Based on report of at least one of the following disabilities: cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living.

Note: Estimates are deemed unstable when a confidence interval has a half-width greater than 10, use caution when interpreting.

References

1. Cancer Incidence and Mortality for New York State, 2015-2019. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, updated in Mar. 2022. Most recent data available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1rnys.htm>
2. NYS Cancer Registry and Cancer Statistics, New York State, 2015-2019. New York State Cancer Registry. New York Department of Health, updated in May 2022. Most recent data available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/>
3. Screening for Breast Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, Rockville, MD, updated in Jan. 2016. Available at <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/breast-cancer-screening>
4. Health.gov, Healthy People 2030 Objectives and Data: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, accessed Jun. 2022. Available at <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer>

Program Contributions

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research
Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control

Order Information

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