

Clinical Breast Examinations and Mammography

Objective: *Increase to at least 80% the proportion of women aged 40 and over who have ever received a clinical breast examination and a mammogram, and to at least 60% those aged 50 and older who have received them within the preceding one to two years.*

The American Cancer Society (ACS), in a 1997 report, estimates that cancer of the breast accounts for approximately 30.2% of the number of new cancer cases among U.S. women. The ACS has also stated that one in nine women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. These kinds of statistics, while unnerving, are no longer accompanied by the fear and fatalism that a few years ago was so pervasive. The difference is that educational campaigns have been at work to inform the public that the risk of death due to breast cancer can be significantly reduced when adequate preventive measures are taken. With the current technology available for screening and improved treatment, women with early-stage breast cancer now have a survival rate of over 90%. Early detection through breast examinations and mammography is a primary objective and as indicated below, there is still a need, particularly among black women, to promote early screening programs.

