



## Summary of Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation\*

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends interventions that engage community health workers to increase screening for breast cancer by mammography.

The CPSTF also recommends interventions that engage community health workers for cervical and colorectal cancer screening.

## Major Findings\*

The CPSTF recommendation is based on evidence from a systematic review of 66 studies (search period through July 2017). Included studies evaluated intervention effects on breast (36 studies), cervical (29 studies), or colorectal (17 studies) cancer screening use.

- Interventions that engaged community health workers, independently or as part of a team, increased breast cancer screening by a median of 12.7 percentage points when compared with no intervention or usual care (35 studies).
- Interventions that aimed to both increase community demand of, and improve access to, screening services reported the largest increases in screening rates (22 studies across breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening).
- There was not enough economic evidence to determine cost-effectiveness for interventions engaging community health workers to increase breast cancer screening.



Interventions that engage community health workers to increase breast cancer screening are typically implemented in underserved communities to improve health and can enhance health equity.

## What are Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers?\*

Intervention approaches that engage community health workers to increase breast cancer screening implement one or more intervention approaches reviewed by the CPSTF. These approaches are divided into two strategies: increasing demand for, and improving community access to, cancer screening.

Cancer Screening Intervention by Strategy	
Increase Community Demand	Improve Community Access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Education</li> <li>• One-on-one Education</li> <li>• Client Reminders</li> <li>• Small Media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interventions to Reduce Structural Barriers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing Administrative Barriers</li> <li>• Assisting with Appointment Scheduling</li> <li>• Providing Transportation</li> <li>• Providing Language Translation</li> <li>• Providing Child Care</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Facts about Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States. About 245,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year and approximately 41,000 women die from the disease.<sup>1</sup>
- Death rates from female breast cancer have steadily declined over the past 20 years.<sup>2</sup> Experts believe this is a result of increased screening and awareness efforts, as well as improved treatments.<sup>2</sup>
- Screening detects cancer at an earlier stage, when it is easier to treat.<sup>3</sup>



### Learn More

**\*Read a complete summary of the systematic review and CPSTF Finding**

[www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-breast-cancer](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-breast-cancer)

**National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)**

[www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/index.htm)

**National Cancer Institute, Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T.**

<https://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/planet/>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Basic Information About Breast Cancer. Breast Cancer. Atlanta (GA): 2019. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic\\_info/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/index.htm).

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society. How Common Is Breast Cancer? About Breast Cancer. Atlanta (GA): 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. What Is Breast Cancer Screening? Atlanta (GA): 2018. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic\\_info/screening.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/screening.htm).

Established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) is an independent, nonfederal panel of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the director of CDC. The CPSTF provides information for a wide range of decision makers on programs, services, and other interventions aimed at improving population health. Although CDC provides administrative, scientific, and technical support for the CPSTF, the recommendations developed are those of the CPSTF and do not undergo review or approval by CDC. Find more information at [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org).

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