

# BRFSS Brief

Number 1403

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

## Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Women, 2012

### Introduction and Key Findings

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in New York State (NYS). There are approximately 14,800 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed each year in NYS, and almost 2,700 women die from the disease annually. The risk of breast cancer increases with age and varies across racial groups. White women are more likely than black women to be diagnosed with breast cancer and less likely to have breast cancer diagnosed at a late stage. Among women with breast cancer, black women are more likely than white women to die from the disease.<sup>1</sup>

Screening for breast cancer can increase the likelihood of identifying cancer at early stages when treatment is most successful. Women aged 50 to 74 years should get a mammogram every two years. Women aged 40 to 49 years, those with family histories or other risk factors for breast cancer, or those who have any symptoms or changes in their breasts, should talk to their doctors about what screening schedule is right for them.<sup>2</sup> Although breast cancer screening recommendations may vary between organizations, each woman should be aware of her personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with her doctor, when and how she should be screened for breast cancer.

NYS has nearly met the Healthy People 2020 objective of 81.1% of women aged 50 to 74 receiving breast cancer screening every two years, with 80.9% of NYS women aged 50 to 74 indicating that they have received a mammogram within the past two years.<sup>3</sup> There are some subpopulations that are less likely to be screened. In NYS, women aged 50 to 74 years without health insurance are significantly less likely to have received a mammogram within the past two years (61.7%) compared to women aged 50 to 74 years with health insurance (83.2%). Similarly, women aged 50 to 74 years without a regular health care provider are significantly less likely to have received a mammogram within the past two years (63.0%) compared to women aged 50 to 74 years with a regular health care provider (82.5%).

### BRFSS questions

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

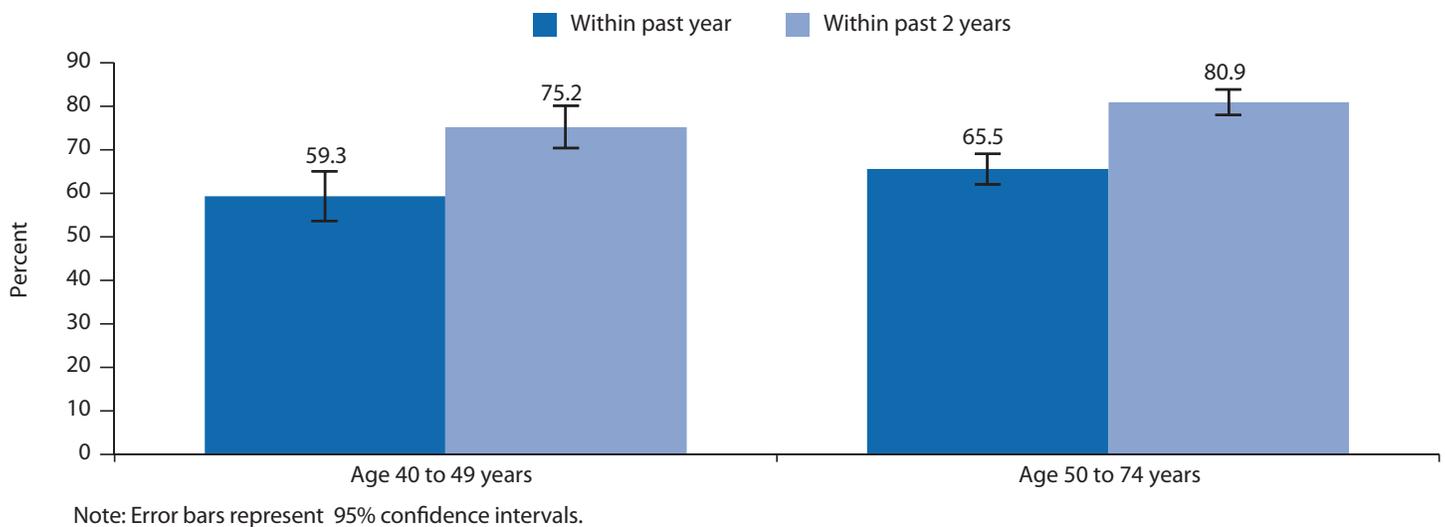
[If "yes":]

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

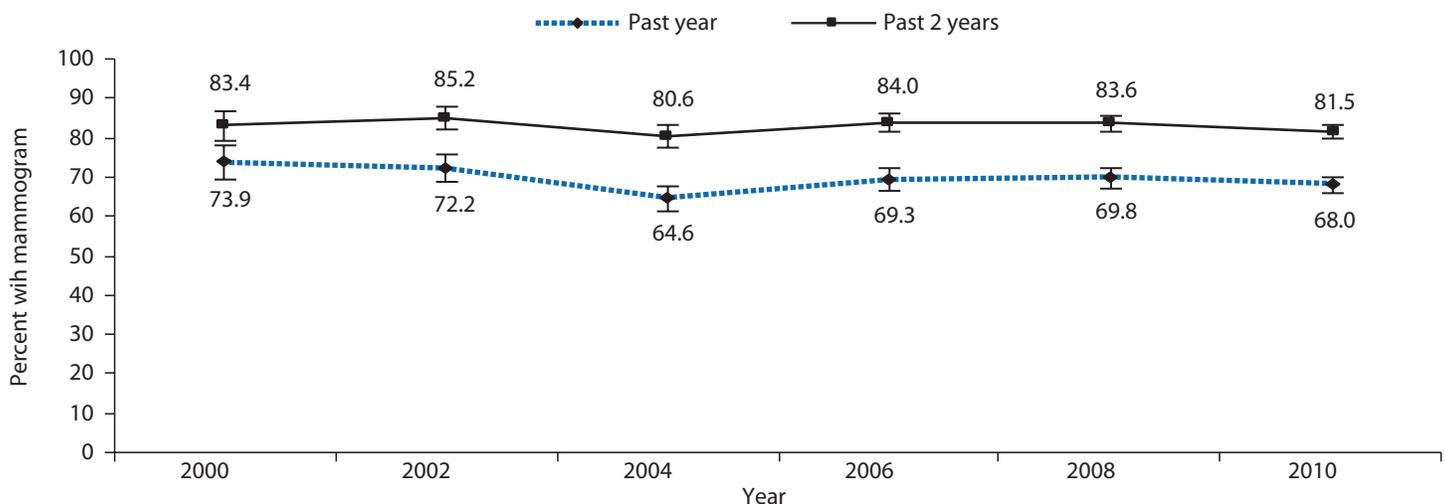
## Changes to BRFSS Methodology

Beginning in 2011, BRFSS data includes data from interviews completed by people with cell phones in addition to interviews completed by people with landlines. The data also reflect changes in how the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) weight the data. Weighting ensures that the data collected are as representative of New York's population as possible. The new method of weighting enables more demographic information about the respondents to be incorporated into the weighting. While these two changes improve the accuracy of the BRFSS, they may result in prevalence estimates that are significantly different from those previously calculated. **Because of the differences in data collection, it is not appropriate to compare 2012 data to prior years and the BRFSS 2012 prevalence data should be considered a baseline year for data analysis.**

**Figure 1. History of mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) among New York State women aged 40 to 49 and 50 to 74 years, BRFSS 2012 survey year**



**Figure 2. History of mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) among New York State women aged 50 to 74 years, by BRFSS survey year from 2000 to 2010**



## History of mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) among New York women aged 50 to 74, by selected characteristics , 2012 BRFSS

	Mammogram history					
	Ever		Within past year		Within past 2 years	
	% <sup>a</sup>	95% CI <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>a</sup>	95% CI <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>a</sup>	95% CI <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total New York State (NYS) [N=1,493]</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>97.9-99.1</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>62.0-69.1</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>77.9-83.8</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White non-Hispanic	98.3	97.6-99.0	64.2	60.6-67.9	80.0	76.9-83.0
Black non-Hispanic	98.5	96.2-100.0	67.0	55.4-78.6	75.4	63.6-87.2
Hispanic	100.0	100.0-100.0	68.0	56.7-79.3	88.2	79.9-96.4
Other non-Hispanic	97.7	93.9-100.0	65.7	46.3-85.1	83.7	71.4-96.0
<b>Annual household income</b>						
< \$15,000	97.7	94.3-100.0	65.9	55.8-76.1	78.8	69.9-87.8
\$15,000-\$24,999	97.3	95.5-99.2	57.2	46.9-67.5	75.3	66.2-84.4
\$25,000-\$34,999	98.3	96.4-100.0	71.2	60.7-81.7	82.0	74.0-89.9
\$35,000-\$49,999	97.2	94.7-99.7	66.0	56.9-75.1	84.3	78.3-90.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	99.4	98.7-100.0	60.5	51.6-69.4	77.5	69.3-85.8
≥ \$75,000	98.5	97.1-99.9	67.9	62.0-73.8	82.7	77.9-87.6
Missing <sup>b</sup>	99.6	99.1-100.0	67.8	57.4-78.3	82.5	73.7-91.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>						
Less than high school	99.3	98.3-100.0	66.8	53.6-80.0	81.2	69.0-93.5
High school or GED	97.8	96.4-99.2	65.0	58.3-71.8	79.0	73.4-84.6
Some post-high school	98.8	97.9-99.8	61.6	55.1-68.1	78.9	73.5-84.2
College graduate	98.5	97.2-99.8	69.5	64.3-74.6	84.4	80.6-88.2
<b>Health care coverage (insured)</b>						
Yes	98.5	97.8-99.2	67.7	64.3-71.2	83.2	80.4-85.9
No	98.6	97.0-100.0	47.5	33.0-61.9	61.7	47.6-75.9
<b>Regular health care provider</b>						
Yes	98.9	98.3-99.4	67.1	63.5-70.7	82.5	79.5-85.5
No	94.3	88.9-99.7	49.1	30.9-67.2	63.0	47.8-78.2
<b>Disability<sup>c</sup></b>						
Yes	99.1	98.5-99.8	61.2	54.0-68.5	76.5	69.6-83.4
No	98.3	97.4-99.1	67.5	63.6-71.4	82.8	79.9-85.8
<b>Residence</b>						
New York City (NYC)	99.0	97.9-100.0	65.1	58.0-72.2	81.1	75.2-87.1
NYS exclusive of NYC	98.1	97.4-98.9	65.8	62.4-69.3	80.7	77.8-83.5

<sup>a</sup> %=Percentage; 95% CI=Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

<sup>b</sup> "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

<sup>c</sup> All respondents who report activity limitations due to physical, mental, or emotional problems OR have health problems that require the use of special equipment.

## References

1. Cancer Incidence and Mortality for New York State, 2007-2011. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised on Nov. 2013. Available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1rnys.htm>
2. What Screening Tests Are There? Breast Cancer Screening. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, updated on Oct. 2013. Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic\\_info/screening.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/screening.htm)
3. HealthyPeople.gov, 2020 Topics and Objectives: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, updated on Aug. 2013. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicid=5>

## Program Contributions

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

## Order Information

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