The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)/Health Research Inc. (HRI) contracts with 33 breast centers accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) to increase New York State’s (NYS) breast cancer screening rate. Breast cancer screening, using mammography, may find breast cancer early when it can be easier to treat.

NAPBC-accredited breast centers provide navigation support for women in need of diagnostic testing and treatment. The NYSDOH/HRI funds one patient navigator per contracted center to help reduce barriers to completion of breast cancer screening. This supports the NYS Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan goal to increase the percentage of women who receive breast cancer screening.

What is the burden of breast cancer in NYS?
Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among NYS women. Each year approximately 15,900 women are newly diagnosed and approximately 2,450 die from the disease.

While 82.1% of NYS women aged 50 to 74 report having received a mammogram in the past two years, women without insurance or a regular health care provider are less likely to be screened.

What is patient navigation?
Patient navigation is a healthcare delivery model that supports movement across the continuum of medical care, from initial patient contact through testing, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

Navigation aims to reduce health disparities by assisting patients to overcome barriers to care completion.

How was the intervention delivered?
Breast centers receive $75,000 per year to hire one full-time navigator to contact women from underserved populations and/or women who have never been screened or are not up-to-date with breast cancer screening.

Each breast center uses community-level data to identify high-need populations for outreach. Breast centers develop referral agreements with primary care practices and community-based organizations who serve these high-need populations.

Partner organizations refer patients to the navigators to assess and reduce patient barriers to screening, assist in scheduling appointments, and follow-up to ensure screening is completed.

Building on activities breast centers perform to maintain NAPBC accreditation ensures the patients receive high quality navigation support from screening through diagnostic and treatment services.
Reducing Barriers

A primary role of the patient navigators is to help identify and address barriers that may prevent patients from accessing and completing mammography. Patient navigators focus on patient access to:

- coordinated primary care services
- education about the importance and benefits of screening
- support services to reduce their barriers to getting screened, such as convenient appointment hours, child care, or transportation
- the NY State of Health: The official health plan marketplace (for uninsured patients)
- the NYS Cancer Services Program or Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program (for eligible, uninsured patients)

Outcomes

36,764 women were referred to screening appointments → 26,861 women completed screening → 73% Completion rate

327 of screened women were diagnosed with breast cancer → 281 women have had or are undergoing treatment → 86% Completion rate

Number of Patients Navigated to Screening Appointments

The number of women navigated to a screening appointment increased by 40% from Year 1 to Year 2

Number of Patients Completing Screening

The number of women screened increased by 47% from Year 1 to Year 2

NYSDOH Cancer Community Programs
NYSDOH Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan
NYSDOH Cancer Registry
NYS of Health: The Official Health Plan Marketplace
NYS Cancer Services Program