

PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES PRIORITY AREA

Prevention encompasses various interventions that prevent or delay the occurrence of disease. There is significant underuse of effective preventive care in the United States which results in lost lives, unnecessary poor health and inefficient use of health care dollars. A review of South Florida community needs coupled with the recommendations by the United States Preventive Services Task Force has led to Health Foundation of South Florida identifying breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening as the major areas of focus within the Preventive Health Measures priority area.

Priority Points

- Cancer is second only to heart disease as the most common cause of death in the United States
- Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for at least half of all new cancer cases
- Following the screening guidelines recommended by the U.S Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer encourages the diagnosis and treatment of cancer at an early, more treatable stage

Strategic Approach

Although the Foundation provides funding for projects focused on promoting screening for hypertension, cholesterol and other conditions, priority is given to proposals that aim to increase breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings, referral and follow-up services. The Foundation strives to reach high-risk populations and increase their awareness of services, decrease barriers to screening and increase the capacity and efficiency of providers to offer the full spectrum of care.



The Foundation gives priority to proposals that incorporate the following strategies intended to increase rates of screening for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers:

- Facilitating the assessment of community needs for planning and targeting of programs
- Dissemination and implementation of evidence-based programs and promising strategies aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of screening and early detection as well as increasing efficiency and capacity of screening providers
- Advocating for and supporting public policy aimed at increasing funding for breast and cervical cancer programs, the establishment of a colorectal cancer program and increased coverage of preventive health measures

Call to Action

The most dramatic and sustainable improvements invariably involve collaboration. Health Foundation of South Florida actively seeks community partners to leverage resources and maximize the impact of health services and programs. If you are part of a community, regional or statewide effort to improve health for residents in Broward, Miami-Dade or Monroe Counties, we want to hear from you. Please contact us to see how we can work together to improve the health of South Floridians.

Investments in Preventive Health Measures.

Since 2008, 13 organizations have received over \$1.5M in the Preventive Measures funding. These dollars have contributed to reaching over 23,000 individuals in direct services and education. Partners include the Breast and Cervical Cancer Programs at Miami-Dade and Broward County Health Departments that leverage federal dollars allowing for expansion of screening capacity, the Women's Breast Health Initiative which reaches over 3000 houses and over 300 free mammograms annually, the YWCA's Family Wellness Program which facilitates breast and cervical cancer screenings for hundreds of underserved women yearly, and Memorial Healthcare System, which implemented a prevention care management system to increase access to colon cancer screenings.

Background Information and Screening Data Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer:

Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women and the second leading cause of death from cancer in American women
- The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends mammography with or without a clinical breast exam every one to two years for women age 50 and over
- Yearly, 37,000 additional lives could be saved if the percentage of women being screened with mammography increased from 67% (as of 2007) to 90%
- Hispanic women are 13% less likely and African American women are 6% less likely to be screened for breast cancer than non-Hispanic white women

Table I: Florida and local breast cancer data:

| Indicator | Miami-Dade | Broward | Monroe | State |
|--|------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Breast cancer age adjusted death rate (Per 100,000), 2005-2007 | 21.8 | 21.5 | 21.7 | 20.8 |
| Breast cancer age adjusted incidence rate (Per 100,000), 2005-2007 | 100.1 | 107.8 | 102 | 108 |
| Women age 40+ who have not had a mammogram in the past year (2007) | 37.1% | 39.0% | 37.6% | 35.1% |

Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer is cancer of the uterine cervix, part of the female reproductive system
- The USPSTF recommends that women have a Pap test at least once every 3 years, beginning after being sexually active, but no later than age 21
- One third of all women with cervical cancer die within five years of diagnosis. However, early detection can increase the five year survival rate to 91%
- Hispanic women are 11% less likely to have been screened for cervical cancer than white women

Table II: Florida and local cervical cancer data:

| Indicator | Miami-Dade | Broward | Monroe | State |
|--|------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Age adjusted death rate (Per 100,000), 2005-2007 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| Age adjusted incidence rate (Per 100,000), 2003-2005 | 11.5 | 9.8 | 3.9 | 9.0 |
| Adult women (18+) who have not had a Pap test in the last year, 2007 | 36.4% | 35.6% | 33.0% | 35.2% |

Colorectal Cancer

- Colorectal cancer is cancer of the large intestine. It is the third most common diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States
- The USPSTF recommends starting screening at age 50 through established screening tests; however fewer than 50% of adults comply with colon cancer screening guidelines. Reports indicate that 14,000 additional lives could be saved if the percentage of adults age 50 and over screened for colon cancer increased to 90%
- Hispanic adults age 50 and over are 39% less likely and African Americans are 19% less likely to be up to date on colorectal screening than non-Hispanic adults
- Studies show a 31% to 57% reduction in the risk for colon cancer among persons who use FOBT, a noninvasive test to discover hidden (occult) blood in the stool, which is the first warning sign that a person has a colon disease including colorectal cancer

Table III: Florida and local colorectal cancer data:

| Indicator | Miami-Dade | Broward | Monroe | State |
|--|------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Age adjusted death rate (Per 100,000), 2005-2007 | 16.4 | 15.8 | 11.7 | 15.3 |
| Age adjusted incidence rate (per 100,000), 2005-2007 | 50.6 | 48.1 | 56.8 | 46.6 |
| Adults ages 50+ who have not had a blood stool test in the past year, 2007 | 86.2% | 78.8% | 84.1% | 78.8% |

