



# New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and several US Territories. The New York BRFSS is administered by the New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) to provide statewide and regional information on behaviors, risk factors, and use of preventive health services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death.

## Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Females, 2022



### Introduction

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer after skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among females in New York State (NYS), with nearly 16,700 new cases and 2,500 deaths each year.<sup>1</sup> Screening for breast cancer can help find cancer early when treatment is most successful. In 2022, the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommended average-risk women ages 50 through 74 years undergo biennial mammogram screenings.<sup>2</sup> While those recommendations were updated in 2024 to include average-risk women starting at the age of 40, this report describes screening among eligible females during the fielding of the survey, and in years past. The NYS Department of Health encourages all cisgender women, persons assigned female at birth (including transgender men and nonbinary persons), and transwomen who currently use or have taken hormones to be aware of their personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with their health care provider, when to start screening.

### Health Equity

Non-Hispanic Black females face disproportionately higher breast cancer mortality rates despite having lower or comparable incidence rates.<sup>3</sup> Individuals identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community are less likely to be up to date with screening. These facts highlight the critical need for tailored interventions and equitable healthcare access to screening, diagnostic care, and treatment for both communities. The NYS Department of Health is committed to removing barriers to screening through initiatives such as the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and by providing funding to screen individuals without health insurance through the Cancer Services Program.

### Key Findings

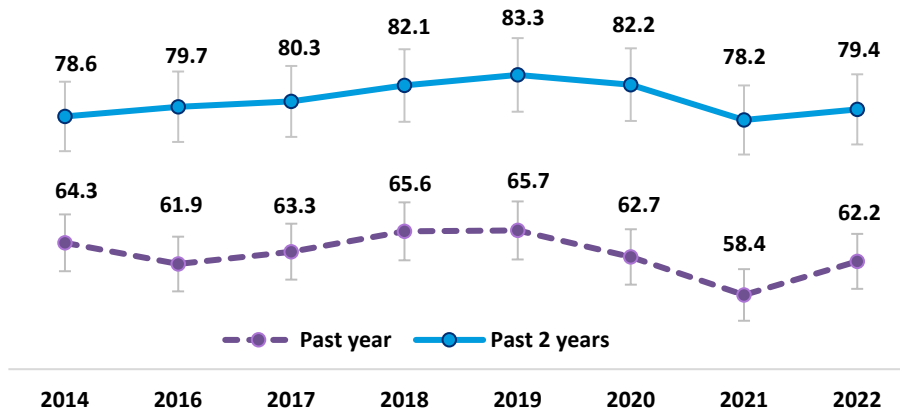
- An estimated 79.4% of females 50-74 years of age were up to date with breast cancer screening recommendations, approaching the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80.5%<sup>4</sup>.
- The slight increase in reported screening followed previous declines consistent with national findings, likely due to health-care disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Disparities in reported screening were observed among individuals identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community<sup>5</sup>, those without health insurance, and those lacking a regular healthcare provider. However, prior observed disparities based on income and disability status were not significant.
- Screening was less likely to be reported among those who currently smoke cigarettes and those who did not report any physical activity in the past 30 days.
- Among those not up to date with recommendations, 95.8% (an estimated 511,900 women) were insured, and 87.5% (an estimated 476,300 women) had a regular healthcare provider (data not shown), representing missed opportunities for screening.



Department  
of Health



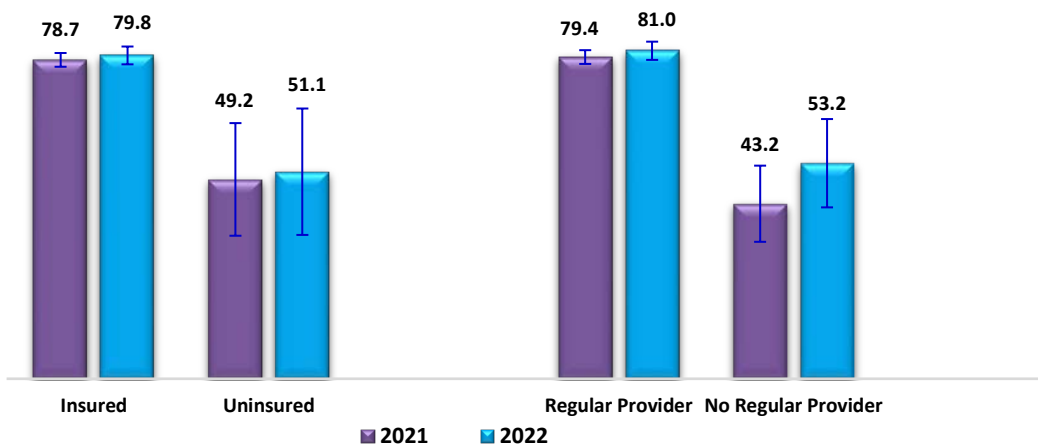
**Figure 1. History of mammogram (within past year and past 2 years) as reported by New York State females<sup>a</sup> 50 to 74 years of age, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014-2022.**



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

<sup>a</sup> Based on the respondent's sex at birth. If sex at birth is missing, then the respondent's sex is based on gender identity at time of the interview.

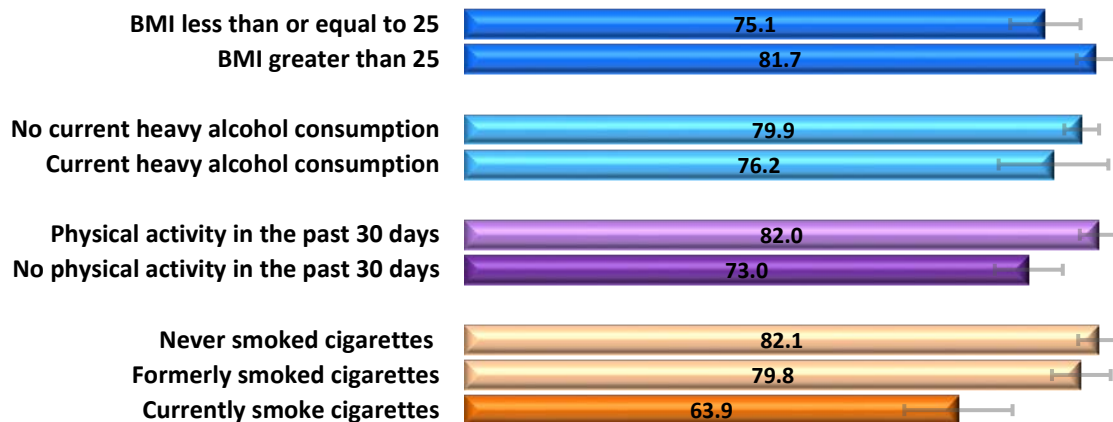
**Figure 2. New York State females<sup>a</sup> 50 to 74 years of age, reporting mammography within the past 2 years, by insurance and health care provider status, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021-2022.**



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

<sup>a</sup> Based on the respondent's sex at birth. If sex at birth is missing, then the respondent's sex is based on gender identity at time of the interview.

**Figure 3. Percent of New York State females<sup>a</sup> 50 to 74 years of age, reporting mammography screening within the past 2 years, by known risk factors for breast cancer, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022.**



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

<sup>a</sup> Based on the respondent's sex at birth. If sex at birth is missing, then the respondent's sex is based on gender identity at time of the interview.

**Table 1. History of mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) as reported by New York State females<sup>a</sup> 50 to 74 years of age, by selected characteristics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022.**

	Ever Had Mammogram		Mammogram Within past year		Mammogram Within past 2 years	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
NYS Statewide	96.0	94.9-97.1	62.2	59.8-64.6	79.4	77.3-81.5
<b>Age</b>						
50-64	95.6	94.1-97.1	63.0	59.9-66.1	79.2	76.4-81.9
65-74	96.7	95.3-98.1	60.8	57.0-64.7	79.8	76.4-83.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
Asian, non-Hispanic	92.3	85.8-98.8	54.8	39.2-70.4	66.9	51.4-82.3
Black, non-Hispanic	95.9	92.7-99.2	64.9	58.0-71.7	84.7	79.7-89.7
Hispanic	95.4	91.4-99.3	62.1	55.2-69.1	81.7	75.5-87.8
White, non-Hispanic	96.8	95.8-97.7	63.7	61.2-66.2	79.6	77.5-81.7
All other race groups combined <sup>b</sup>	98.2	94.8-100.0	46.6	28.9-64.3	74.3	58.9-89.7
<b>Annual Household income</b>						
Less than \$25,000	95.2	92.7-97.6	54.6	47.6-61.5	74.9	69.3-80.5
\$25,000 - \$49,999	95.5	93.3-97.7	56.2	50.2-62.3	73.6	67.9-79.3
\$50,000 and greater	97.6	96.0-99.2	66.9	62.0-71.8	81.3	76.8-85.9
Missing <sup>c</sup>	95.6	93.5-97.8	64.2	59.4-69.0	83.4	79.6-87.1
<b>Educational Attainment</b>						
Less than high school	94.6	90.8-98.4	55.5	46.1-64.9	77.5	69.6-85.5
High school or GED	95.0	92.7-97.3	59.2	54.1-64.3	76.4	72.1-80.8
Some post-high school	95.6	93.1-98.1	61.7	56.9-66.4	78.6	74.2-82.9
College graduate	97.4	96.4-98.4	66.7	63.4-69.9	82.3	79.5-85.2
<b>Healthcare Coverage</b>						
Private	97.0	95.5-98.4	65.1	61.8-68.5	82.0	79.3-84.8
Medicare	97.2	96.0-98.5	60.8	56.3-65.3	79.3	75.3-83.3
Medicaid	94.5	91.5-97.4	59.4	50.9-68.0	75.5	67.2-83.7
Other insurance	90.3	83.6-97.1	61.0	52.7-69.4	76.1	68.5-83.7
No insurance	93.0	85.4-100.0	31.3	18.1-44.5	51.1	35.5-66.7
<b>Regular Health Care Provider</b>						
Yes	96.3	95.2-97.4	63.7	61.3-66.2	81.0	78.9-83.2
No	90.4	83.8-97.1	36.1	25.9-46.2	53.2	42.3-64.1
<b>Disability<sup>d</sup></b>						
Yes	96.1	94.5-97.6	56.5	52.2-60.8	75.8	72.2-79.5
No	95.9	94.5-97.3	64.9	62.0-67.8	81.0	78.4-83.6
<b>Residence</b>						
New York City (NYC)	96.2	94.8-97.7	59.5	55.2-63.9	79.9	76.1-83.8
NYS excluding NYC	95.8	94.4-97.3	63.9	61.0-66.7	79.1	76.6-81.6
<b>Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity<sup>e</sup></b>						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and/or intersex	94.0	88.0-100.0	53.8	42.6-65.0	66.1	54.8-77.3
Heterosexual/straight cisgender	96.4	95.2-97.5	62.6	59.9-65.2	79.9	77.6-82.2

<sup>a</sup>Based on the respondent's sex at birth. If sex at birth is missing, then the respondent's sex is based on gender identity at time of the interview. <sup>b</sup>American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Other, or Multiracial. <sup>c</sup>Missing category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income. <sup>d</sup>Based on report of at least one of the following disabilities: cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living. <sup>e</sup>Heterosexual or straight are people who are sexually oriented toward people of the opposite, usually binary, gender; Cisgender is a person whose current gender corresponds to the sex they were assigned at birth.

Notes: % = weighted percentage; CI = confidence interval; When comparing estimates, the 95% confidence interval (95% CI) provides the statistical range containing the true population percentage with a 95% probability. Although a 95% confidence interval is not a test of statistical significance, categories whose 95% confidence intervals do not overlap can be considered significantly different.

## References



1. New York State Cancer Registry. Cancer Incidence and Mortality in New York State, 1976-2021. <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry>. Released in May 2024.
2. Screening for Breast Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, Rockville, MD, updated in Apr. 2024. Available at <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/breast-cancer-screening>
3. NYS Cancer Registry and Cancer Statistics, New York State, 2015-2019. New York State Cancer Registry. New York Department of Health, updated in May 2022. Most recent data available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/>
4. Health.gov, Healthy People 2030 Objectives and Data: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, accessed Jun. 2022. Available at <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer>
5. New York State Office of Mental Health. LGBTQI+ Resources. Available at <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/lgbtqia/>

## Suggested Citation



Myo, Hnin Wai Lwin Dr.PH., Malloy, Kevin P MPH. BRFSS Brief: Breast Cancer Screening, New York State Adult Females, 2022. No. 2024 -26. Albany, NY: New York State Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, October 2024.

## BRFSS questions



### Breast Cancer Screening (Asked of all respondents who indicate

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?

## Program Contributions



New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research

Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control



## Contact Information

Contact us by

Phone: (518) 473-0673

Email: [BRFSS@health.ny.gov](mailto:BRFSS@health.ny.gov)

Visit: [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)



Department  
of Health