



New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 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 United States Territories. The New York Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is administered by the New York State Department of Health 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 Ages 50-74, 2024

Introduction

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer after skin cancer and second leading cause of cancer death among females in New York State, with nearly 18,000 new cases and 2,300 deaths annually.¹ Breast cancer screening can help find cancer early when treatment is most successful. Historically, guidelines for screening frequency and age of initiation have varied among professional organizations; however, they consistently recommend average risk females be screened by mammogram either annually or biennially starting between the ages of 40 and 50, through age 74. In mid-2024, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) updated their guidelines to recommend breast cancer screening begin at age 40.² This analysis was limited to female respondents age 50 to 74, describing screening behavior both before and after this change.

Health Equity

Structural and personal barriers in accessing cancer screenings and preventive care including transportation challenges, cost, lack of workplace support, medical system distrust, and limited health knowledge may contribute to disparities in breast cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, survival, and mortality.³⁻⁶ Non-Hispanic Black females are disproportionately diagnosed with breast cancer at younger ages, with more advanced disease, and experience higher mortality than other racial and ethnic groups.^{1,7,8} The New York State Department of Health is committed to removing barriers to cancer screening through partnership with the New York State Cancer Consortium, supporting evidence-based interventions in health centers, and by providing screening for uninsured New Yorkers through the Cancer Services Program.⁹

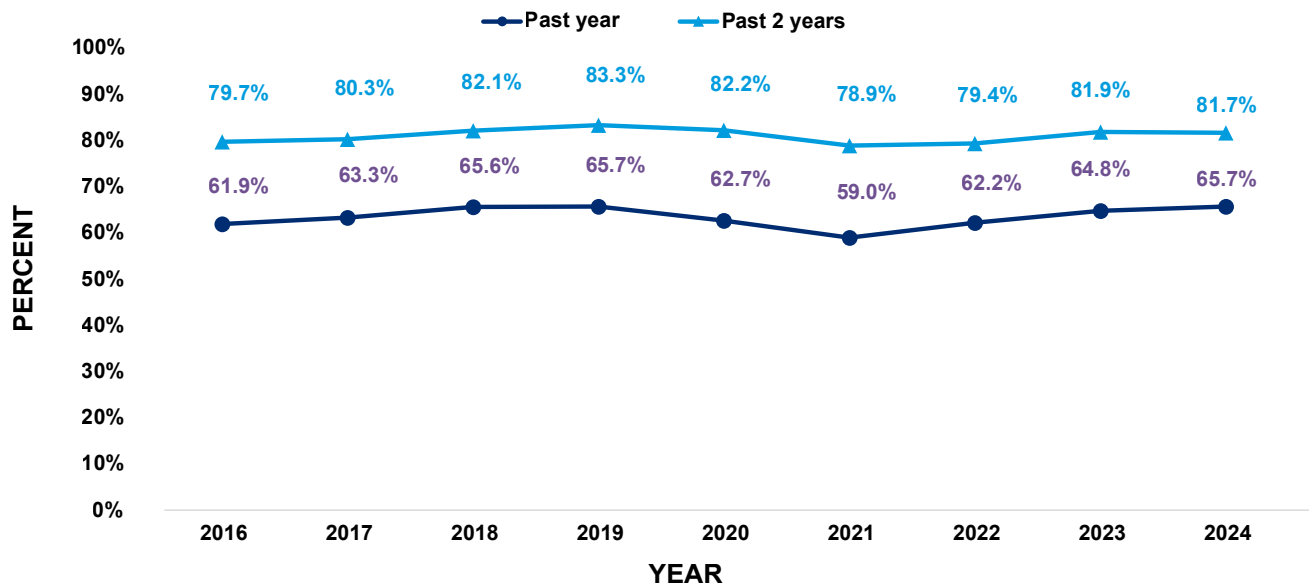


Key Findings

- An estimated 81.7% of females ages 50-74 years were up to date with breast cancer screening recommendations, surpassing the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80.3% for the second year in a row (Figure 1).¹⁰
- Females with some breast cancer risk factors including current cigarette smoking, less than daily fruit or vegetable consumption, and physical inactivity were less often up to date with breast cancer screening recommendations (Table 2 & Figure 2).
- Among females not up to date with breast cancer screening recommendations, 89.7% (an estimated 417,000 females) were insured, and 86.4% (an estimated 421,000 females) had a regular health care provider (data not shown), representing missed opportunities for screening.

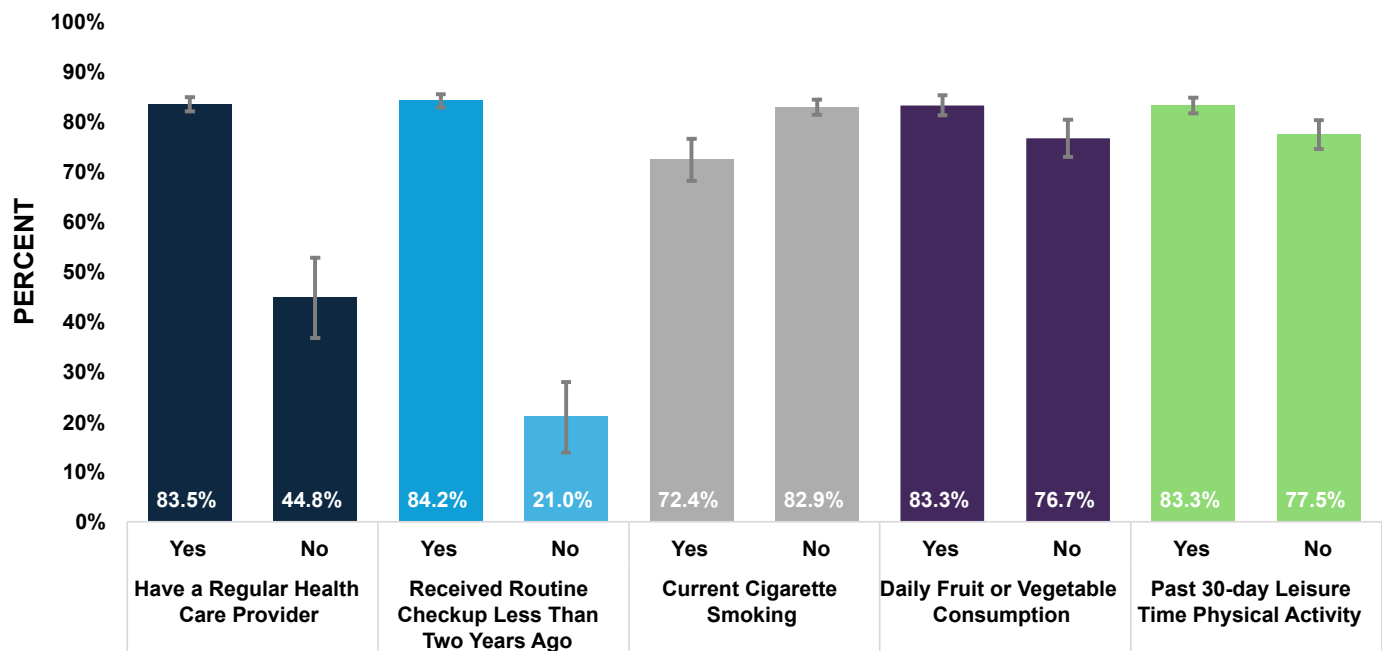


Figure 1. Reported History of Mammogram (Within Past Year and Past 2 Years), New York State Females* Ages 50 to 74 years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2024.



*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. Significant Differences* in Report of Receiving a Mammogram in Past 2 Years, by Health Care Status and Breast Cancer Risk Factors, New York State Females Ages 50 to 74 years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2024.**



*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.

**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. Reported History of Mammogram (Never or Rarely,^a Within Past Year, Within Past 2 Years) by Selected Demographic Characteristics, New York State Females^b Ages 50 to 74 Years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2024.

	Never or Rarely Screened ^a		Mammogram within past year		Mammogram within past 2 years (Up to Date)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
New York State Statewide [n=10,203]	12.6	11.4-13.8	65.7	64.0-67.4	81.7	80.3-83.1
Age						
50-64 years	12.8	11.3-14.3	65.7	63.6-67.8	81.6	79.9-83.4
65-74 years	12.3	10.4-14.1	65.6	62.7-68.5	81.9	79.7-84.1
Race/Ethnicity						
Asian, non-Hispanic	16.9	9.3-24.6	60.4*	49.6-71.2	77.3	68.2-86.3
Black, non-Hispanic	9.6	7.0-12.2	65.1	60.5-69.8	84.9	81.6-88.3
Hispanic	11.2	8.4-13.9	65.6	61.5-69.7	82.4	79.2-85.6
Multiracial, non-Hispanic	11.0*	2.6-19.5	65.9*	53.5-78.3	85.1	76.1-94.2
White, non-Hispanic	12.9	11.6-14.2	66.8	65.0-68.7	81.6	80.0-83.1
All other race groups combined ^c	21.5*	11.9-31.1	59.5*	48.3-70.7	73.1*	63.0-83.3
Annual Household Income						
Less than \$25,000	16.2	13.0-19.4	58.0	53.4-62.6	77.0	73.3-80.7
\$25,000-\$34,999	15.0	10.8-19.3	58.7	52.6-64.8	75.6	70.5-80.8
\$35,000-\$49,999	12.0	8.6-15.3	66.0	60.9-71.1	82.9	79.1-86.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	12.8	9.7-15.8	67.7	63.4-71.9	81.9	78.3-85.4
\$75,000 or greater	9.6	7.8-11.4	71.0	68.2-73.7	85.1	82.8-87.3
Missing ^d	14.1	11.1-17.1	64.2	59.9-68.4	81.7	78.4-85.0
Employment Status						
Employed/Self-employed	12.0	10.4-13.7	66.5	63.9-69.0	82.1	80.1-84.2
Unemployed	16.2	9.3-23.0	63.2	55.1-71.2	79.3	72.1-86.4
Homemaker	16.5	11.1-22.0	62.0	55.2-68.9	78.0	72.2-83.8
Student	§	§	§	§	§	§
Retired	11.1	9.1-13.2	68.3	65.3-71.4	84.0	81.6-86.3
Unable to work	15.6	12.3-18.8	58.5	53.6-63.3	76.3	72.4-80.3
Educational Attainment						
Less than high school	13.3	9.7-17.0	63.6	57.8-69.4	78.9	73.8-84.0
High school or GED	14.3	11.8-16.7	61.1	57.5-64.8	80.0	77.1-82.9
Some post-high school	13.8	11.3-16.2	64.9	61.7-68.2	80.1	77.3-82.8
College graduate	10.8	9.1-12.6	68.7	66.0-71.3	84.4	82.4-86.4
Health Care Coverage						
Any Insurance	11.2	10.1-12.4	67.3	65.6-69.1	83.3	82.0-84.7
Private	10.0	8.4-11.6	69.7	67.2-72.3	84.8	82.8-86.8
Medicare	11.9	10.0-13.7	65.8	62.7-68.9	82.2	79.9-84.5
Medicaid	14.7	11.0-18.3	62.2	57.0-67.3	79.7	75.6-83.8
Other insurance ^e	10.5	7.0-14.0	67.8	62.3-73.2	85.1	81.0-89.1
No insurance	46.6*	36.0-57.3	28.8	20.3-37.4	41.7	31.9-51.4

Table 1. Reported History of Mammogram (Never or Rarely,^a Within Past Year, Within Past 2 Years) by Selected Demographic Characteristics, New York State Females^b Ages 50 to 74 Years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2024.

	Never or Rarely Screened ^a		Mammogram within past year		Mammogram within past 2 years (Up to Date)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Disability^f						
Yes	15.4	13.3-17.5	60.2	57.2-63.1	77.8	75.3-80.2
No	11.1	9.7-12.5	68.6	66.5-70.7	83.8	82.2-85.5
Region						
New York City (NYC)	11.2	9.0-13.4	65.6	62.2-68.9	82.8	80.1-85.4
NYS excluding NYC	13.5	12.2-14.7	65.7	63.9-67.6	81.1	79.6-82.6
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Intersex^g						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and/or intersex	25.2	18.0-32.5	51.5	43.6-59.3	70.0	62.6-77.5
Heterosexual/straight and cisgender	12.0	10.8-13.3	66.4	64.6-68.2	82.2	80.8-83.7

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.

*Estimates that have a confidence interval with a half-width of greater than 10, or when the relative standard error (RSE) is greater than 30% are unstable and should be used with caution.

[§] Estimates are suppressed when there are less than 50 observations in the denominator or less than six observations in the numerator.

^a Respondents were categorized as Rarely or Never Screened if they never received a mammogram or last received a mammogram 3 or more years prior to the survey.

^b 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.

^c Includes Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Other non-Hispanic reported races. The specific race/ethnicity groups within this category did not meet criteria for reliability and stability to be reported on their own.

^d Missing category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^e Other insurance includes TRICARE, VA / Military, Indian Health Service, state sponsored health plan, or other government plan.

^f Based on report of at least one of the following disabilities: cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living.

^g People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, or something else/ other sexual orientation or gender minority group.

Table 2. Reported History of Mammogram (Never or Rarely,^a Within Past Year, Within Past 2 Years), By Selected Health Characteristics, New York State Females^b Ages 50 to 74 Years, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2024

	Never or Rarely Screened ^a		Mammogram within past year		Mammogram within past 2 years (Up to Date)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
New York State Statewide [n=10,203]	12.6	11.4-13.8	65.7	64.0-67.4	81.7	80.3-83.1
Have a Regular Health Care Provider						
Yes	11.2	10.0-12.3	67.2	65.5-69.0	83.5	82.1-84.9
No	42.5	34.6-50.3	32.6	24.8-40.4	44.8	36.8-52.8
Received Routine Checkup Less Than Two Years Ago						
Yes	10.4	9.3-11.5	67.7	66.0-69.4	84.2	82.9-85.5
No	65.4	56.6-74.1	14.5	8.2-20.8	21.0	13.9-28.0
Lack of Reliable Transportation^c						
Yes	17.5	9.7-25.3	47.7*	36.0-59.4	70.7*	60.1-81.4
No	13.1	10.8-15.4	67.4	64.4-70.3	82.5	80.0-84.9
Binge or Heavy Alcohol Consumption^d						
Yes	12.9	9.6-16.1	69.2	64.5-73.8	82.6	78.8-86.3
No	12.7	11.4-14.0	65.1	63.2-67.0	81.5	80.0-83.0
Current Cigarette Smoking						
Yes	20.9	17.1-24.6	54.3	49.4-59.1	72.4	68.2-76.6
No	11.6	10.3-12.8	67.1	65.2-69.0	82.9	81.4-84.4
Have Overweight or Obesity^e						
Yes	11.0	9.7-12.4	66.9	64.8-69.0	83.1	81.5-84.7
No	15.0	12.5-17.6	63.7	60.3-67.2	79.7	76.8-82.6
Daily Fruit or Vegetable Consumption						
Yes	11.2	9.6-12.8	67.4	64.9-70.0	83.3	81.3-85.3
No	14.4	11.5-17.3	59.2	54.9-63.6	76.7	73.0-80.4
Past 30-day Leisure Time Physical Activity						
Yes	11.4	10.1-12.7	68.0	66.0-69.9	83.3	81.7-84.8
No	15.9	13.4-18.4	59.3	55.9-62.7	77.5	74.6-80.3

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.

*Estimates that have a confidence interval with a half-width of greater than 10, or when the relative standard error (RSE) is greater than 30% are unstable and should be used with caution.

^aRespondents were categorized as Rarely or Never Screened if they never received a mammogram or last received a mammogram 3 or more years prior to the survey.

^bBased 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.

^cRespondents who reported lack of reliable transportation for medical appointments, meetings, work, or getting things needed for daily living during the past 12 months.

^dBinge drinking is defined as consuming 4 or more drinks for women and 5 or more drinks for men on a single occasion. Heavy drinking is defined as consuming 8 or more drinks per week for women and 15 or more drinks per week for men.

^eBased on categories of body mass index (BMI), calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. Having overweight or obesity is defined as a BMI of greater than or equal to 25 kg/m².

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Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 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?

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Program Contributions



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