

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1. About the BCCHP

The Breast, Cervical and Colon Health Program (BCCHP) began in Washington State in 1993. BCCHP is part of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). The program was created by the United States Congress to improve access to breast and cervical cancer screening for women with low incomes and no health insurance. Through this landmark program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now supports comprehensive screening activities in all 50 states, 4 U.S. territories, in the District of Columbia and in 13 American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations. Since 1990 the program has served more than 3 million women in the U.S.

Since 1994, BCCHP in Clallam, Jefferson, King and Kitsap Counties has provided services to 47,433 women. Breast cancer was diagnosed in 675 women and cervical cancer or pre-cancerous cervical condition was diagnosed in 293 women. These women and an additional 1350 women diagnosed at BCCHP-contracted facilities have received cancer and pre-cancer treatment services through the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP) since 2001.

In 2012 we screened 6,055 women for breast and/or cervical cancer. Outreach staff at community-based organizations recruit women who have never or rarely been screened to enroll in the program. Approximately half of clients screened each year are new to BCCHP. Of women enrolled during 2012, 55% had not received a Pap test within 5 years.

Priority populations enrolled exceed their representation in the community. Of the women screened in 2012, 34% were women of color and 30% were Hispanic. 57% spoke a language other than English. 2.3% identified as lesbian or bi-sexual. Forty-six women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 21 women were diagnosed with a cervical pre-cancerous condition. Another 68 clients enrolled in the BCCTP after diagnosis at a BCCHP-contracted facility.

In 2005, the Washington Colon Health Program started screening clients for colon cancer through a grant from the CDC. This program was initially a pilot program in King, Jefferson and Clallam Counties. In 2009, the State of Washington received funding from the CDC to continue colon cancer screening, which is now incorporated into the breast and cervical health program services.

From 2006-2012, over 6800 people enrolled for colon screening. These clients completed 2803 Fecal Occult Blood Tests (FOBT), 262 Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT), and 1040 colonoscopies. 382 people had polyps removed, potentially preventing cancer in these clients.

In 2012, 772 clients completed colon cancer screening. This included 457 FOBTs, 214 FITs, and 101 surveillance colonoscopies. Of the 671 completing FOBT or FIT, 33 had a diagnostic colonoscopy to follow up on an abnormal result. Forty four clients had polyps removed, of which 2 were suspicious for cancer.

New in 2014: With the passing of the Affordable Care Act thousands of people will now have access to affordable insurance options. BCCHP will educate our clients and the communities we serve about their options for full insurance coverage. With more of our clients eligible for health insurance, our screening numbers will decrease. BCCHP will focus on reaching and serving

eligible clients who don't qualify for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) or remain uninsured or underinsured. BCCHP will continue to provide community education about preventive health screening tests and will also focus on how to utilize the health insurance benefits for those newly covered by the ACA.

Goal:

Finding cancers early can save lives. The BCCHP helps eligible clients get screened for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. We also connect clients with diagnostic services and treatment. We work to improve access to services, especially for people who face extra barriers to getting health care. Everyone should be able to get recommended cancer screenings.

Funding:

The BCCHP receives funding from the CDC, Washington State, and the Puget Sound Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Prime Contractor:

Public Health - Seattle & King County is a Prime Contractor for BCCHP. In this role, we partner with health care providers and community agencies to provide program services in Clallam, Jefferson, King and Kitsap Counties. The program follows requirements set by the CDC and the Washington State Department of Health.

1.2. Staff Contact List

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