Currently, programs funded through CDC’s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) serve approximately 14.3% of NBCCEDP-eligible women, aged 40–64 years, for breast cancer, and 8.7% of eligible women, aged 18–64 years, for cervical cancer.

An increase in appropriations would allow the program to provide lifesaving screening to more women. With the suggested increase in funding, over 100,000 additional women could be screened. Funds would also be used to expand efforts to enable more organized systems of care by supporting strategies such as patient navigation and care management, public education and awareness, targeted outreach, and efforts to ensure quality screening and diagnostic follow up. Funding could also be used to support a new cancer demonstration project that will enable funded grantees to develop and implement innovative strategies and expand population-based, public health activities designed to increase screening rates for all women, insured and uninsured.

Basic Facts about Breast and Cervical Cancer: In the United States in 2010, (the most recent year numbers are available) 206,966 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, and 40,996 women died from the disease; 11,818 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3,939 women died from cervical cancer.

In year 2012, the NBCCEDP—

- Screened 340,038 women for breast cancer with mammography and diagnosed 5,904 breast cancers.
- Screened 251,637 women for cervical cancer with the Pap test and diagnosed 261 cervical cancers and 12,433 premalignant cervical lesions, of which 32% were high-grade.
- Estimates are that over $8 billion per year is spent in the U.S. for the treatment of breast cancer, and over $3 billion per year on the treatment of cervical cancer. Mammography screening every two years extends life for women aged 65 or older at a cost of about $36,924 per year of life saved. Cervical screening every three years extends life at a cost of about $5,392 per year of life saved.
- Screening increases the likelihood of finding breast and cervical cancers at earlier stages, when they are more treatable. Early detection and follow-up can prevent virtually all cervical cancer deaths and reduce breast cancer deaths by 16% in women over age 40.

CDC’s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) provides access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to low-income, uninsured and underserved women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 U.S. territories, and 11 tribes. Programs also include evaluation, public and provider education, outreach, case management, follow-up and quality assurance. Since the beginning of the program, over 11 million screening and diagnostic tests have been provided to over 4.5 million women, and 62,121 breast cancers, 3,458 invasive cervical cancers, and 163,548 premalignant cervical lesions diagnosed, of which 40% were high-grade.

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