



Genesee County Health Department

Mark Valacak, M.P.H., Health Officer
Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

PRESS RELEASE

<http://www.gchd.us>

Floyd J. McCree Courts & Human Services Building
630 S. Saginaw Street, Ste 4
Flint, Michigan, 48502-1540
Phone: 810-257-3612
Fax: 810-257-3147

Community Health
Phone: 810-257-3612
Fax: 810-257-3147

Environmental Health
Phone: 810-257-3603
Fax: 810-257-3125

Personal Health
Phone: 810-257-3132
Fax: 810-237-6162

Burton Branch
G-3373 S. Saginaw St.
Burton, Michigan 48529
Phone: 810-742-2255
Fax: 810-742-2561

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Contact: Dianna LaBonte, R.N., B.S.N.
Public Health Nurse Coordinator

Phone: (810) 237-4571

Re: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This month and every month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the Genesee County Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer among women in Michigan. The American Cancer Society estimated 40,170 women died in 2009 from breast cancer in the United States. According to The Cancer Burden in Michigan, when compared to other counties in Michigan, Genesee County is one of three counties with a higher female breast cancer death rate. Early detection enables early treatment and increases the chances of survival.

All women are at risk for developing breast cancer; however, there are several risk factors that can increase the risk. These risk factors include:

- Increasing age-women 50 years of age and older are at an increased risk
- Family history of breast cancer in a mother, sister, daughter or other multiple relatives
- Personal history of breast cancer
- Never giving birth or having a first child after the age of 30
- Menstruating before 12 years of age or stopping menstruation after 55 years of age

Other possible risk factors include obesity, low physical activity, alcohol consumption and long term use of hormonal replacement therapy.

Mammography is one of the best tools available to detect breast cancer early. A mammogram can detect breast cancer two years before a lump can be felt. Yearly mammograms are recommended beginning at age 40. Clinical breast exams are also recommended once a year starting at age 20 along with monthly self breast exams.

The Genesee County Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) offers free clinical breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams and Pap smears to women who qualify. The program may also assist with diagnostic services if an abnormality is found. Medicaid may be provided to women enrolled in BCCCP to assist with treatment when breast or cervical cancer is diagnosed through the program. For more information or to see if you qualify, please contact the Genesee County Health Department at 810-237-4545.