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Asians Below State Average for Timely Mammograms

SUMMARY: This fact sheet provides estimates of recent mammography screening rates among racial and ethnic groups and subgroups in California based on the 2011-2012 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS 2011-2012). CHIS is a valuable data source that allows detection of differences in breast cancer screening rates within California's diverse population. Though

recommendations have recently changed, this fact sheet defines routine breast cancer screening as receipt of a mammogram in the past two years among three age groups of women age 40-49, 50-69 and 70 and older because the benefits of mammography vary by age (ww5.komen.org/BreastCancer/GeneralRecommendations.html).

Early detection of breast cancer provides a greater range of treatment options and often results in improved health outcomes. Overall, about 79% of women age 40 and over in California received a mammogram in the past two years.

For California's major racial and ethnic groups, mammography rates for Non-Hispanic Asian women were statistically lower than the state average as well as compared to women in the other racial groups. Specifically, 72% of Asian women reported a recent mammogram in the past two years compared to 83% of African American, 81% of White, and 77% of Latina women (see Figure 1). Rates for recent

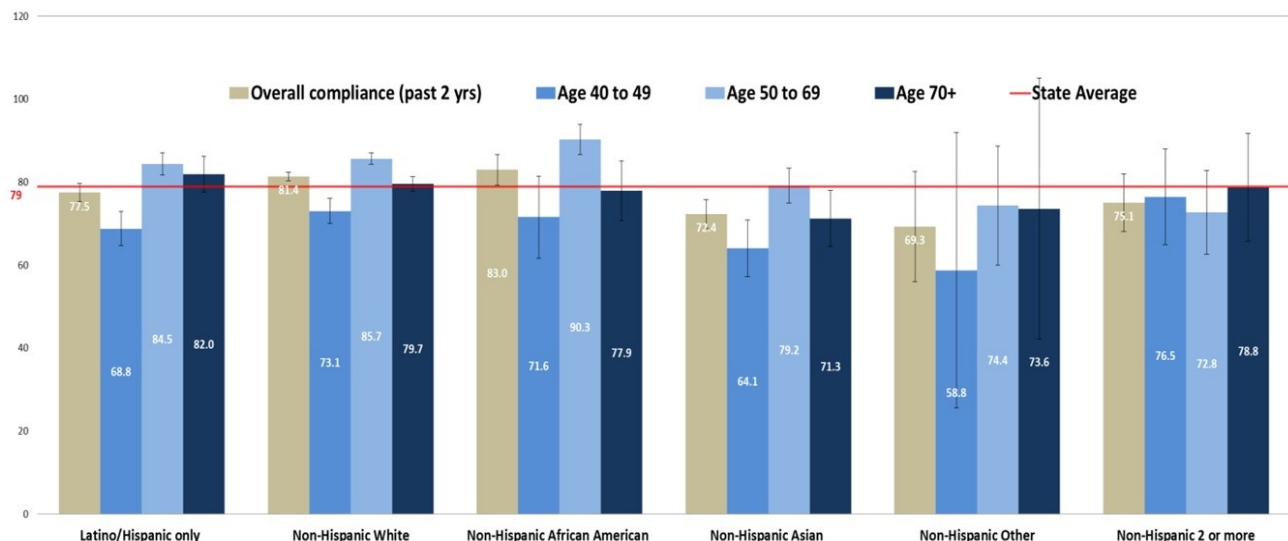
mammography were significantly higher among Non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans compared to the state overall.

Among most racial/ethnic groups, mammography rates for women age 40 to 49 were significantly lower than rates for older women. The lower compliance rates for younger women held true even for White and African American women, groups that had higher compliance rates than California overall.

The large CHIS sample and diversity of California's population permits calculating separate mammography rates for many Latina and Asian subgroups, re-

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Figure 1. Proportion of Women, Age 40 and Older, Who Had a Recent Mammogram Overall and by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group in California



Data Source: The 2011-2012 California Health Interview Survey included 20,119 women respondents age 40 and over

vealing potential differences that remain invisible in most national data sets. Rates in routine breast cancer screening among Latina subgroups range from 73% for Latina Europeans to 83% for South American Latinas. These estimates suggest that Latina Europeans were least likely to report receipt of a recent mammogram compared to other Latina subgroups; however, their rate was not statistically different from the state average.

Among Asian women, only half of Korean women (52%) reported a mammogram in the past two years – significantly lower than all other Asian subgroups (72%) and significantly lower than all women in California (79.0%). This finding is consistent with previous years, with about 58% of Korean women reporting a recent mammogram in 2009. Japanese women (84%)

have significantly higher rates of mammography compared to all other Asian subgroups (72%).

These findings point to the need for programmatic interventions and incentives to support routine mammography for Korean women. Additional research is needed to disentangle the reasons for lower mammography rates among Koreans. For example, many Koreans lack health insurance coverage, which may act as a barrier to seeking preventive health care services such as routine mammography screening. With the expansion of health care coverage and preventive health services under the Affordable Care Act, there are opportunities to ensure that women age 40 to 49 and all racial and ethnic groups, including Korean women, have timely access to routine breast cancer screening.

Table 1. Proportion of Women Who Had a Recent Mammogram by Latina Subgroups, among Women Age 40 and Over in California

	Had a mammogram in past 2 years	Number of women who had mammogram in past 2 years ⁺
Latino/Hispanic	77.5 (75.3-79.7)	1,768,000
Mexican	77.5 (75.0-80.0)	1,353,000
Central American	77.3 (68.2-86.3)	115,000
Salvadoran	78.9 (69.8-88.0)	99,000
Latina European	73.2 (62.3-84.0)	39,000
South American	82.6 (72.5-92.6)	72,000
Other/2+ Latino	74.4 (64.9-83.8)	90,000

⁺ Rounded to nearest 1,000



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This publication contains data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the nation's largest state health survey.

Conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, CHIS data gives a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population.

Learn more at:

www.chis.ucla.edu

Table 2. Proportion of Women Who Had a Recent Mammogram by Asian subgroups, among Women Age 40 and Over in California

	Had a mammogram in past 2 years	Number of women who had mammogram in past 2 years ⁺
Non-Hispanic Asian	72.4 (68.9-75.8)	837,000
Filipina	78.2 (70.2-86.2)	220,000
Vietnamese	75.6 (67.8-83.4)	100,000
Chinese	72.8 (66.9-78.7)	257,000
Korean	51.8 (42.6-60.9)	76,000
South Asian	68.8 (57.0-80.6)	73,000
Japanese	84.1 (77.3-90.9)	73,000
2+ Asian	73.9 (58.3-89.6)	34,000

⁺ Rounded to nearest 1,000

Data Source for Tables 1 & 2: The 2011-2012 California Health Interview Survey included 20,119 women respondents age 40 and over