



Hennepin Health
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Breast Cancer Screening Focus Study 2022

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer for women with a rate of 129.7/100,000, exceeding the next most common cancer, lung and bronchus, by nearly three times. It is the second most lethal cancer for women at a rate of 19.4/100,000. In Minnesota, the breast cancer rate is even higher at 134/100,000 women.¹ The Minnesota Department of Health states that the survival rate for breast cancer is 99% when diagnosed early, and only 78% when diagnosed late,² which clearly demonstrates the importance of screening and early detection. White women in Minnesota have the highest breast cancer incidence rate. Black women are most likely to be diagnosed late and have the highest breast cancer mortality rate.

Because early detection is vital to breast cancer treatment and survival, and because mammogram rates dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic along with other cancer screening tests,³ Hennepin Health seeks to understand the rates and demographics of mammograms among our member populations and use this information to develop interventions to raise breast cancer screening rates.

Focus Study Questions

1. Among Hennepin Health members, what are the mammogram rates?
2. How do the Hennepin Health breast cancer screening rates compare to those of other Minnesota Medicaid managed care organizations and the Minnesota commercial population?
3. What are the disparities in breast cancer screening rates by ethnic group at Hennepin Health?
4. What interventions to address breast cancer screening rates are showing promise or effectiveness?

Sample Size and Study Methodology

This study is based on Hennepin Health mammogram claims data with dates of service in 2020 and 2021 which was received by February 15, 2022. The claims of all eligible members were reviewed for 2020 and 2021, so no sampling or sampling methodology was completed. The DHS Risk Corridor Technical Specifications for breast cancer screening was used for the 2021 data collection. The population age for inclusion in this study is women who are 50-74 years old. Race and ethnicity data was populated from DHS enrollment data files.

The Hennepin Health measurement year (MY) 2021 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) Breast Cancer Screening (BCS) is used for this focus study. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS® BCS measure assesses women 50–74 years of age enrolled with Hennepin Health for 11 of 12 months within the calendar year and who had at least one mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the past two years.⁴

The HEDIS® BCS measure is an administrative measure, and, therefore, all eligible members are part of this measure. The total eligible population was 1,001 members with the breakdown by each Hennepin Health product outlined below.

- PMAP – 710
- MinnesotaCare – 122
- SNBC - 169

¹ <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/#/AtAGlance/>

² https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/data/dashbc.html?url_var=survival

³ <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/us-cancer-screenings-slow-recover-initial-pandemic-dip>

⁴ <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/breast-cancer-screening/>

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Analysis

Data Limitations

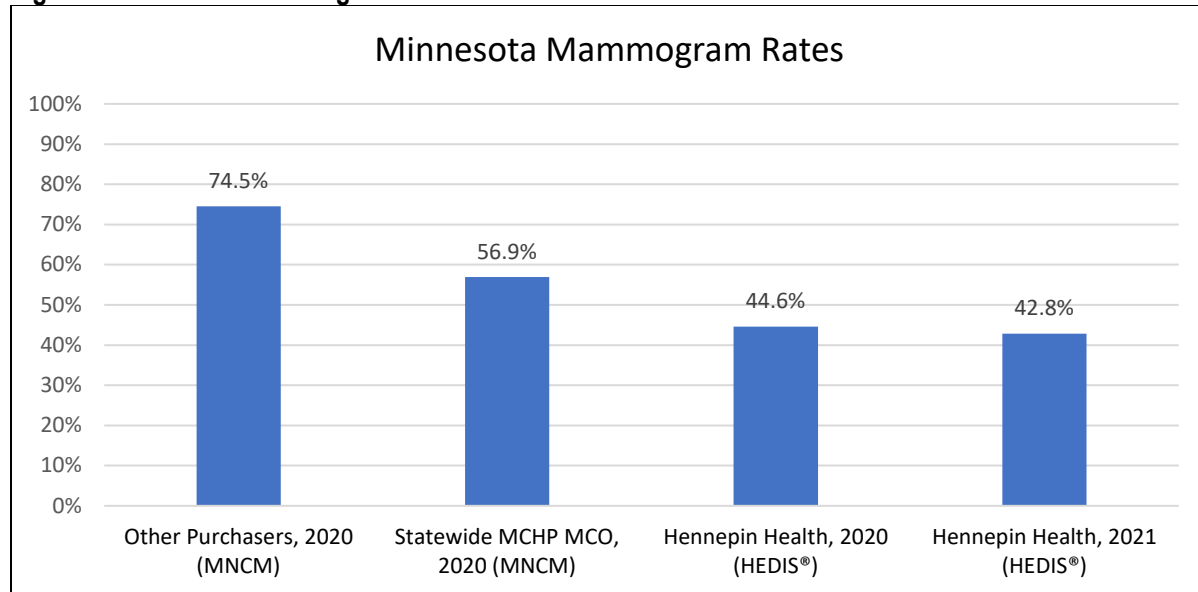
In order to accurately interpret HEDIS® data, NCQA recommend a sample size of 411 for any HEDIS® measure. Hennepin Health has a small eligible population size by product and in total for inclusion in the BCS measure, particularly when considering data at the race and ethnicity level. This makes the data sensitive to fluctuations and therefore, difficult to draw meaningful conclusions when drilling down by multiple factors, such as product line and race. For the study, mammograms and breast cancer screening terms are used interchangeably.

Race and ethnicity data was obtained from the DHS enrollment file. As always, there is a considerable number of records for which race and ethnicity are unknown (30.4%). Additionally, the multi-racial category by its nature may include people who do not identify with or culturally relate to in any way to other members within the category. Therefore, results from this category cannot be meaningfully applied in terms of understanding the findings or to identify culturally specific interventions.

Results

Hennepin Health's overall mammogram rate decreased from a rate of 44.6% in 2020 to a rate of 42.8% in 2021. The rate is below the rates for other purchasers and other Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) managed care organizations (MCOs) according to the 2020 Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) report. It also is below the national Medicaid mammography rate of 51% as reported by the NCQA⁵.

Figure 1: Minnesota Mammogram Rates



Data Source: Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM), Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2020 and MY 2021

When examining Hennepin Health's mammogram rates, SNBC members have the highest screening rate of all product lines (see Table 1). The rate difference may be explained by the level of case management and intensive focus that SNBC members receive. MinnesotaCare members are a close second for mammogram rates, followed by PMAP members with the lowest rates. While not certain, Hennepin Health believes this may be a result of the

⁵ <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/breast-cancer-screening/>

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MinnesotaCare members having a higher income level, access to regular source of medical care, cultural beliefs, and literacy.

According to the HEDIS® BCS data reported by the MHCP MCOs to DHS annually, this hierarchy in stratification appears to be true for the other MHCP MCOs, as well. Historically, Hennepin Health's mammogram rates for PMAP, MinnesotaCare, and SNBC products are below the Minnesota Medicaid program average and other MHCP MCOs. Please refer to the Attachment A HEDIS® section for more information.

Table 1. Hennepin Health MY2021 HEDIS® BCS Rates by Product			
Product	Numerator	Denominator	Rate
PMAP	285	710	40.1%
MinnesotaCare	59	122	48.4%
SNBC	83	169	49.1%
Total	427	1001	42.7%

Data Source: Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2021

Tables 2 and 3 shows Hennepin Health's HEDIS® MY 2021 mammogram rates by race, ethnicity, and product. Because the sample sizes are very small when divided by both race and product line (Table 2), Hennepin Health is analyzing the data by race, inclusive of all eligible PMAP, MinnesotaCare, and SNBC because the sample size is small when divided by both race and product line.

Table 2. Hennepin Health MY2021 HEDIS® BCS Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Product												
Race	All Products			PMAP			MinnesotaCare			SNBC		
	Num.	Dem.	Rate	Num.	Dem.	Rate	Num.	Dem.	Rate	Num.	Dem.	Rate
Black	144	305	47.2%	79	168	47.0%	9	26	34.6%	56	111	50.5%
White	100	249	40.2%	73	190	38.4%	13	25	52.0%	14	34	41.2%
Native American	22	77	28.6%	14	62	22.6%	2	3	66.7%	6	12	50.0%
Asian & Pacific Islander	22	51	43.1%	13	30	43.3%	3	11	27.3%	6	10	60.0%
Multi-race	5	15	33.3%	5	13	38.5%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%
Unknown	134	304	44.1%	101	247	40.9%	32	56	57.1%	1	1	100%
Total	427	1001	42.7%	285	710	40.1%	59	122	48.4%	83	169	49.1%

Data Source: Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2021

Table 3. Hennepin Health MY2021 HEDIS® BCS Rates by Hispanic Ethnicity and Product			
Product	Numerator	Denominator	Rate
PMAP	14	30	46.7%
MinnesotaCare	8	13	61.5%
SNBC	2	2	100.0%
Total	24	45	53.3%

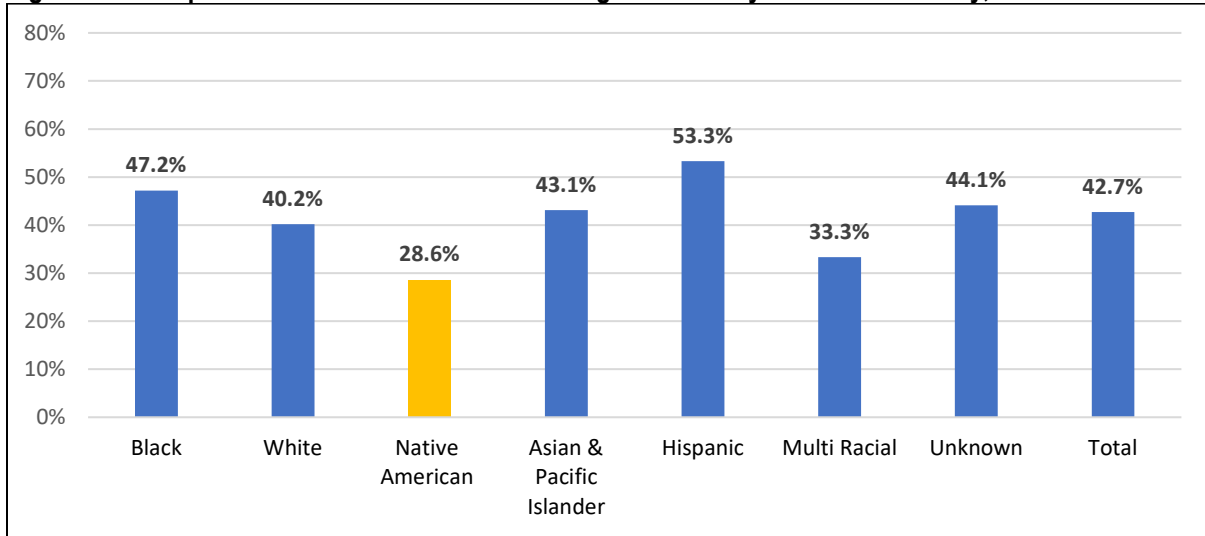
Data Source: Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2021

Figure 2 displays the Hennepin Health mammogram data by race for all eligible members, regardless of products, as sample sizes are exceedingly small when divided by both race and product line. Hennepin Health's Black and Hispanic members have the highest mammogram rates by race and ethnic group, 47.2% and 53.5% respectively. Hennepin Health's Native American members' mammogram rate is 28.6%, which is the lowest of all racial groups. Racial disparities are seen with the Native American and multi-racial population when compared to the White population.

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According to Minnesota Community Measurement's (MNCM) 2020 data, the most recent year data is available, MHCP Hispanic residents have the highest screening rate statewide (62.4%) (Table 4). Statewide, MHCP Black residents have the lowest screening rate statewide (49.1%)⁶ which differs from the Hennepin Health Black members as they have the highest BCS rate. However, given that Hennepin Health's Black eligible members are getting mammograms at a rate of 47.2%, they are close to the same rate as the MHCP Black members statewide. All other racial groups of Hennepin Health members track lower rates than their MHCP peers. According to MNCM, MHCP Native American members also have the lowest screening rate amongst racial groups statewide, but the rate is higher than Hennepin Health's rate of 49.5%.

Figure 2. Hennepin Health MY 2021 HEDIS® Mammogram Rates by Race and Ethnicity, All Products*



*Hispanic ethnicity includes members who identify as any race.

Data Source: Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2021

Table 4. Hennepin Health 2021* and Statewide MHCP 2020** BCS Rates by Race			
Race/Ethnicity	Hennepin Health Rate, 2021	MHCP Rate, 2020	Percentage Difference
Black	47.2%	49.1%	-1.9%
White	40.2%	59.9%	-19.7%
Native American	28.0%	49.5%	-20.9%
Asian & Pacific Islander	43.1%	56.4%	-13.3%
Multi-race	33.3%	51.4%	18.1%
Unknown	44.1%	NA	NA
Hispanic/Latinx	53.3%	62.4%	-9.1%
Total	42.7%	56.9%	-14.2%

*Data Source: Hennepin Health HEDIS® MY 2021

**Data Source: Minnesota Community Measurement, 2021 Minnesota Health Care Disparities by Insurance Type Report

In 2022, Hennepin Health expanded its outreach to include preventative care gap closures, such as mammograms. Members who are past due on preventative care services received a phone call from Hennepin County Health and Human Services, Hennepin Healthcare, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center and Hennepin Health outreach staff,

⁶ chrome-

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where members were helped with referrals and scheduling appointments. Barriers to care, such as transportation, were addressed in the outreach call. Reminders about annual preventive health exams were posted on the Hennepin Health website, social media, and promoted in brochures. Hennepin Health continued to offer a gift card to members for having a mammogram as a way to increase the HEDIS® mammogram rates.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Given that Hennepin Health's mammogram rates for all eligible members is lower than those for other MHCP MCOs and for all other purchasers, all members would benefit from increased intensive outreach efforts and campaigns. Hennepin Health may also investigate different options such as supporting mobile mammography options. Hennepin Health will also collaborate with the PMAP/MinnesotaCare social service navigation team and the internal SNBC care guides and external care coordinators whenever possible to encourage mammography appointments. Finally, Hennepin Health will seek to partner with organizations and providers in the Native American community for outreach and developing culturally tailored messaging around mammography.



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