

# 2021 NPCR MINNESOTA SUCCESS STORY

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*Data to Action: Improving Breast Cancer Screening Rates in Minnesota*

## National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

### SUMMARY

Breast cancer screening rates dropped precipitously after U.S. states locked down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Cancer Reporting System (MCRS) and the Minnesota Sage Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (Sage) collaborated to develop and disseminate data analyses for partners and stakeholders to support and facilitate robust efforts to increase breast cancer screening rates.

### CHALLENGE

Millions of U.S. women delayed routine breast cancer screening procedures after the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic locked down states in the spring of 2020. Minnesota's senior U.S. Senator, Amy Klobuchar, shared in a recent interview with local reporters that she was diagnosed and subsequently treated for stage 1A breast cancer following a mammogram that she had delayed due to COVID-19. She urged all women in MN not to delay their routine screening (<https://www.npr.org/live-updates/biden-covid-vaping-fda#sen-klobuchar-says-she-was-treated-for-breast-cancer-earlier-this-year>).

### SOLUTION

In response to screening delays stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, health care systems, the Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA), the American Cancer Society (ACS) individually and in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) initiated robust efforts to increase awareness of the importance of screening for breast cancer, and the programs and resources available for women in Minnesota. To educate and motivate health professionals and consumers and inform and focus outreach efforts, MDH's Minnesota Cancer Reporting System (MCRS) developed two fact sheets and a facts and figures report in collaboration with Minnesota's Sage Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (Sage). MCRS also developed an online dashboard for use in program planning and decision-making, as well as state and local media campaigns during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

### RESULTS

MCRS publications were widely disseminated with promotional and other information through traditional and social media outlets, website links, newsletters, educational and training presentations, and other outreach efforts through Sage, the Minnesota Cancer Alliance, the American Indian Cancer Foundation, and the American Cancer Society.

- *Breast Cancer Survival in Minnesota Fact and Figures* report provided up-to-date estimates of relative survival for breast cancer in Minnesota. This report documented improvements in survival overall and by stage, as well as substantial declines in breast cancer mortality which provides evidence of real progress made in the fight against breast cancer since the 1990s.
- The *Breast Cancer Disparities Fact Sheet* and the *Need for Early Detection and Treatment of Breast Cancer Fact Sheet* highlighted racial and ethnic disparities in the incidence, mortality, and survival from breast cancer among Minnesota women. Population-based findings such as these were used to help inform cancer screening awareness and outreach for communities of increased risk.
- MCRS' *Breast Cancer Dashboard* is a one-stop shop for Minnesota breast cancer statistics including incidence, mortality, and prevalence (survivorship) at the state, county, and regional levels for use in program planning, decision making, and outreach. With over 600 hits in the first month of its release, the dashboard has been in high demand.

### SUSTAINING SUCCESS

Maintaining the progress Minnesota has made and improving breast cancer outcomes for women who are of increased risk for cancer remain important priorities. Data analyses that account for the social determinants of health can help guide and inform programs, policymaking, and educational outreach. MCRS and Sage will continue to collaborate on analyses of MCRS and other data and develop effective data dissemination plans with partners and communities impacted at state and local levels. Soliciting feedback from diverse partners and people at higher risk of cancer will be an important source of information on which to improve the usefulness of cancer registry data in breast cancer prevention and control.

### REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

651-201-5900

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/index.html>



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