



TARRANT COUNTY CANCER DISPARITIES COALITION

Our concern: There are significant disparities related to breast cancer in Tarrant County.

- Lower-income women and less-educated women are more likely to miss mammograms than women with higher incomes and education. In a recent study, only about 50% of women in two low-income communities in North Texas were found to have received a mammogram.
- Although White women are most likely to be diagnosed with any type of breast cancer, Black women are 2.5 times more likely than White women to die from breast cancer. Black women, followed by Hispanic women, have the lowest survival rates at 5-year and 10-year intervals.
- In Tarrant County, Hispanic women are the most likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. This is unique compared to Texas and the US, where Black women are most likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer than other racial/ethnic groups.

Our goal: To increase community involvement in breast cancer prevention

- Develop a coalition in Tarrant County to build community capacity and reduce cancer health disparities.
- The Coalition will be community-driven, led by providers and community residents
- The Coalition will have an initial focus on breast cancer, with the flexibility to shift its focus to different forms of cancer prevention based on the needs of the community.

Our process: Listen, Learn, Plan, Execute

- **Listen:** A needs assessment was conducted in 2012 through conversations with community representatives and organizations. This assessment identified many factors contributing to disparities in breast cancer prevention and treatment. A large collaboration of health providers and community organizations has already come together to identify the different resources and assets available to support this effort.
- **Learn:** A task group of community and organizational representatives will come together in early 2013 to learn about Community-Based Participatory Research, community outreach models, and statistics on local cancer disparities. This group will also learn about best practices and evidence-based programs in cancer prevention.
- **Plan:** The task group will provide leadership to determine how to best focus initial efforts. This includes identifying underserved communities; exploring the best approach to use within these communities; collaborating with key partners; and assessing funding opportunities.
- **Execute:** All partners will come together to carry out the plan of action. In addition to implementing any specific community-based strategies, important steps will include applying for funding, formalizing agreements, and distributing information to the community.

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