

## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast cancer is a group of diseases that affects breast tissue. Though this disease can affect both men and women, breast cancer is much more common in women, affecting over 250,000 women in the United States annually. This cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women, other than skin cancer. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Jackson County Department of Public Health encourages all women to get a mammogram, if recommended.

Getting mammograms regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. The US Preventative Services Task Force recommends that an average-risk women who is 50-74 years old should have a mammogram screening every two years. As always, women should speak with their provider about their risk to identify their screening schedule.

While mammograms are covered by most health insurance programs at low or no-cost, the Health Department works to ensure that mammograms are available to all women, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. To help women in need, the Health Department offers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) which provides free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and follow-up to eligible women. To qualify for the program, women must 1) be 40 years or older, 2) meet the financial guidelines, and 3) be uninsured, underinsured, or have high insurance deductibles.

For more information about this program, contact the Health Department at 828-587-8289.

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