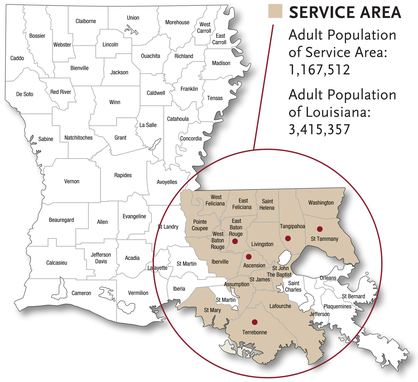
Saving Lives Through Early Detection

A Mobile Approach

Background

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center is a regional cancer care organization that has been fighting cancer for more than 40 years. With five locations, its service area encompasses 18 parishes across southeast Louisiana.

Since 2002, the Early Detection program has provided over **65,000** breast, prostate, skin, colorectal and oral cavity cancer screenings at no cost to participants. The provision of no cost cancer screenings (five types) targeting the uninsured, minorities, elderly and rural communities, through the use of mobile medical clinics is an innovative and effective intervention, helping reduce the cancer burden.



● Center Locations By Parish

ASCENSION
Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital

EAST BATON ROUGE
Mary Bird Perkins Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center

ST. TAMMANY
Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at St. Tammany Parish Hospital

TANGIPAHOA
Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center

TERREBONNE
Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at TGMC

Goal

Reduce mortality from screening accessible cancers.

Objectives

1. Offer free breast, prostate, skin, colorectal and oral cancer screenings to individuals that lack access due to insurance status or other socioeconomic factors.
2. Provide patients with abnormal findings access to patient navigators to assist them through resolution in a timely manner.

Methods

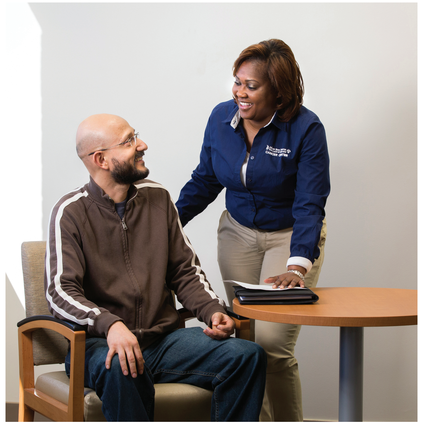
In 2002, the Cancer Center utilized best practices identified by the Community Preventive Services Task Force (such as reducing structural barriers and reducing client out-of-pocket costs) to design a community cancer screening program.

REDUCING DISPARITIES BY SERVING:

- Medically underserved (uninsured/underinsured)
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural communities
- High health needs Zip codes
- Those with structural barriers (mobile medical clinics)

Patient Navigation

The Early Detection Program team includes two patient navigators who assist screening participants in removing obstacles to care and reaching timely resolution to abnormal findings. This is critical in ensuring that patients who receive a cancer diagnosis do so in a timely manner.

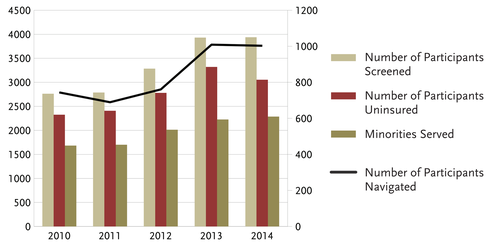


Results

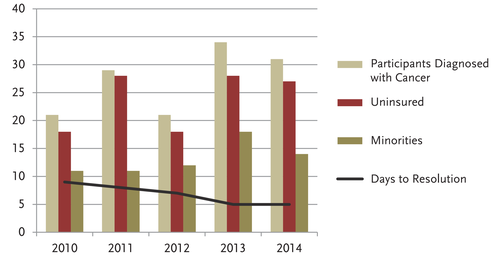
In the past five years, the Cancer Center has provided patient navigation services to 5,600 participants, which resulted in the diagnosis of 228 cancers.

Since 2010, 136 breast cancers have been diagnosed. Eighty-eight percent of the individuals diagnosed with breast cancer through this program were uninsured. It is important to note these cancers are diagnosed within 11 days (on average) of an abnormal finding, whereas the standard of care for breast cancer diagnosis is 60 days.

Breast Screening Participants 2010 – 2014



Breast Cancer Diagnosis 2010 – 2014



Conclusion

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center focuses on reaching the most vulnerable in our region with potentially life-saving early detection services. We will continue fighting cancer through education and cancer screenings at every turn.