



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA
Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"
For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 109
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES
NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since the program began in 1985, mammography rates have more than doubled for women age 50 and older. The breast cancer death rate has declined.

This is exciting progress, but there are still women who do not take advantage of early detection at all, and others who do not get screening mammograms and clinical breast exams at regular intervals. Women with low income are less likely than women at higher incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women in the United States, with lung cancer being first. According to the American Cancer Society, it's estimated that about 178,480 women in the United States will be found to have invasive breast cancer in 2007. About 40,460 women will die from the disease this year. Right now there are slightly over 2 million women living in the United States who have been treated for breast cancer.

The Central Michigan District Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program would like to invite women to call and find out more about the free breast and cervical screening. The program is for women aged 40 through 64 years who are uninsured or underinsured. Free services available through the program include: clinical breast exam, mammogram, pap test, and pelvic exam. Call your county's branch office of the Central Michigan District Health Department to see if you are eligible and to make an appointment.



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“Ninety-five percent of women that have breast cancer will be alive in 5 years if it is discovered early,” said Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director of the Central Michigan District Health Department. “Women should get into the habit of doing a monthly self breast exam and seeing their doctor for a clinical breast exam every year,” Graham added.

For more information about National Breast Cancer Awareness Month please visit www.nbcam.org. For additional information, please call one of the following toll-free numbers: American Cancer Society, (800) 227-2345 or the National Cancer Institute (NCI), (800) 4-CANCER.

Information adapted from the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month webpage.