



Cotton County Health Department

Date 05/11/2016 Contact: James Fields, Health Educator

### **Now Is the Time to Get Screened for Breast and Cervical Cancer**

During the month of May Brandie O'Connor, regional administrative director for the Cotton County Health Department, wants to remind all women to get screened for breast and cervical cancer.

Oklahoma's late stage cancer rate is declining at a much slower rate when compared nationally. In the U.S., the percentage of late stage breast cancer diagnosis is 26% and cervical cancer is 17%. In Oklahoma, the percentage of late stage breast cancer diagnosis is 29% and cervical cancer is 53%.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Oklahoma women and is the leading cause of cancer death among women. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends women 50-74 years of age should have a mammogram every two years.

Due to advanced detection and treatment, there is no longer any reason why women should die from cervical cancer. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends women 30 to 65 years receive a Pap test and human papillomavirus infection (HPV) testing every 5 years or a Pap test only every 3 years.

Brandie O'Conner wants to remind women in Cotton County that there are multiple opportunities to get screened for breast and cervical cancer. Breast and cervical cancer screenings are covered through some insurance companies without co-pay.

The Cotton County Health Department urges you to call your healthcare provider and schedule your appointment today! If a woman does not have health insurance coverage for breast and cervical cancer screenings, they may qualify for free breast and cervical cancer screenings through the Take Charge! program. Women who are low income, not insured and between the ages of 50-64 should call 1.888.669.5934 and talk to the Take Charge! Patient Navigator to find out if they qualify for free screenings.

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