



CWHS

# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Since the risk of having breast cancer increases with age, it is important to continue having regular mammograms as women get older. In order for breast screening to be most effective, older women should be screened at least every two years.

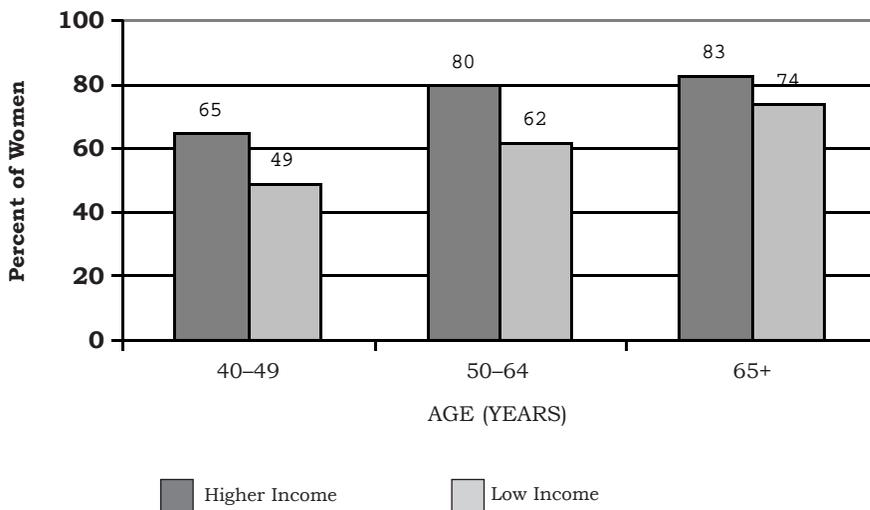
The 1997 California Women's Health Survey collected data on both income level and age. Women who have had breast cancer and women less than age 40 were excluded from this analysis. Low income women are defined as women who had household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

- The percent of women who had a mammogram within the past two years increased with age.
- However, low income women in each age group had lower rates of mammography than higher income women in those same age groups.
- Although most women age 65 and older have mammography coverage from Medicare, only 74% of low income women age 65 and older had a mammogram within the past two years compared to 83% of higher income women.

## MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING AMONG WOMEN AGE 40 AND OLDER, BY INCOME AND AGE; CALIFORNIA, 1997

Cancer Control Branch

Percent of Women Who Had A Mammogram Within the Past Two Years, By Age and Income Status; California, 1997



Note: Low-income women are defined as women who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

### Public Health Message:

Regardless of age, women age 40 and older who live in households with incomes above 200% of the federal poverty level are more likely than women with lower incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.

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