

Partners...

A newsletter for the partners and providers of Early Detection Works, Kansas breast and cervical cancer screening and detection program

Inside

Early Detection at Work

CancerCare Offers Support Services

Cancer and Health Disparities

EDW Changes in Eligibility Guidelines

Cancer Forums Held Across Kansas

Director's Message

The Early Detection Works Program has faced many challenges, and this year will be no exception. With the number of uninsured women at its highest level in five years, we expect a record number of women to seek services. Unfortunately, federal funding for Kansas, as for most states, will not increase during this grant year. In preparation for tightening budgets and increasing needs, EDW no longer provides services to women with insurance, and family income guidelines will not increase this year. In addition, we are not funded to provide advertising or media efforts. We are implementing other internal strategies to enable us to increase dollars for screenings and diagnostics, while maintaining the level of service that providers and partners expect. And the good news is that EDW has exceeded CDC program goals for the last three years, and has now provided services to more than 20,000 women since the program began 10 years ago, with more than 6,000 women receiving services last year (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.)

The Early Detection Works Program recognizes the work of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation which helps EDW to leverage federal resources by providing mammograms, especially for younger women. In addition, our Komen partners are wonderful advocates for the program both in Kansas and nationally. The Race Against Breast Cancer funds mammograms in Shawnee County, and again, helps leverage EDW's limited federal funds. A sincere thank you to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and Shawnee County's Race Against Breast Cancer.

The Kansas Cancer Partnership is moving forward in implementing the Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Plan. The Partnership, along with the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, recently completed a series of forums across the state to educate interested Kansans about moving forward in Plan implementation. These forums provided information about the implementation of the plan, and priorities within the plan related to prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and compassionate end of life care. If you missed the forums and would like more information about the Cancer Plan, please contact us. You may also want to visit the Cancer Partnership's new website, www.cancerkansas.org which will be online by September 1. This site has been developed to address the need of patients for accurate, quality information. This will be particularly relevant to patients who may have difficulty sorting good information from myth or misinformation. It will provide references to other websites that have been reviewed for accuracy. In addition, a section of the website will be devoted to addressing the interests of cancer clinicians. If you are interested in more information about the initiatives outlined in the Cancer Plan, e-mail pohara@kdhe.state.ks.us or call (785) 296-1207.

*Janet Neff, Director
Cancer Prevention and Control Program*

Regional Nurses

Northeast

Heidi Schemltz, RN
785-573-6733

North Central

Karla Schmidt, RN
785-452-6361

South Central

Sherry Haworth, RN
316-660-7332

Southeast

Stephanie Thompson, RN
620-235-7136

West

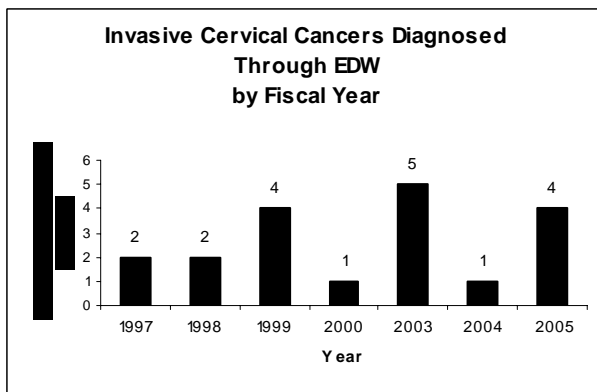
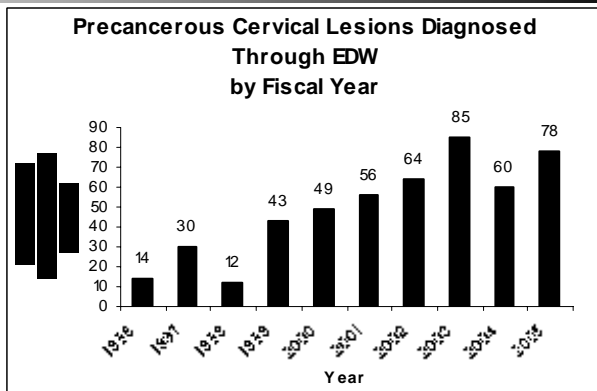
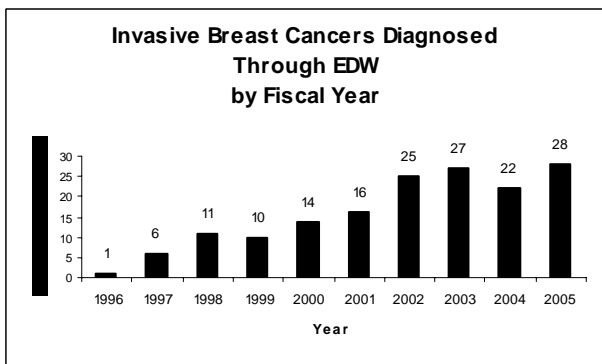
Shelly Nelson, RN
620-275-5302

**Early Detection
Works
Toll-free Hotline
1-877-277-1368**

Early Detection at Work

The Early Detection Works (EDW) program is saving the lives of Kansas women through early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cervical and breast cancers.

In the 10 years spanning fiscal years 1996 through 2005, 25,864 mammograms were paid for by EDW and its partners, leading to the diagnosis of 160 cases of invasive breast cancer. In the same time period, 491 women were diagnosed with precancerous cervical lesions through EDW. In such cases, if appropriate treatment is promptly initiated, cervical cancer is prevented. Nineteen cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed. Without treatment, cervical cancer is fatal, while even late diagnosis offers an opportunity to undergo potentially live-saving treatment.



Invasive cancer, particularly cervical cancer, is most frequently found in women who have been rarely or never screened which EDW defines as having had no screening for at least five years. As cervical cancer is preventable, rarely or never screened women are a priority for EDW cervical screenings.

CancerCare Offers Support Services

CancerCare is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide free, professional support services to anyone affected by cancer, including patients, caregivers, children, loved ones, and the bereaved. CancerCare programs are provided by trained oncology social workers and are free of charge.

Founded in 1944, CancerCare provides individual help and support via the telephone to more than 90,000 people each year. In addition, more than 1.4 million people obtain information from its website, www.cancercare.org. Telephone support groups take place during one hour conference calls which are free to participants. General cancer support and caregiver support groups are offered in both English and Spanish. Other

support groups are organized by type of cancer. For more information on telephone support groups, call (800) 813-HOPE. Online information regarding support groups may be found at <http://supportgroups.cancercare.org>.

Educational services also are offered free of charge to patients and professionals alike through telephone workshops featuring recognized experts. Workshops cover a variety of topics which span multiple cancers. Live education calls are held from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST. This coming October 4, for instance, the topic will be "Medical Update on the Hormonal Treatment of Breast Cancer." For more information or to register for a free call, visit www.cancercare.org. Recordings of past Telephone Education Workshops may be accessed either by telephone or online.

Cancer and Health Disparities

Second only to heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States, cancer claims more than 500,000 lives each year. The lifetime chances of developing cancer are 45 percent for men and 41 percent for women. Despite advances in treatment, nationally almost half of all people diagnosed with cancer will die of the disease.

While deaths caused by breast cancer have decreased among white women, African-American women continue to experience higher rates of mortality from breast and cervical cancer. This may be the result of less frequent screening among African-American women who have not received regular mammograms or Pap tests or follow-up treatment. Men in African-American populations also have more cancers of the lung, prostate, colon, and rectum than do white men. Vietnamese women have an incidence rate of cervical cancer five times higher than white women. Limited access to health care services paired with language and cultural barriers are important reasons for the low rates of screening and treatment for many minority groups.

Because fear, cost, and lack of physician referral are three common barriers to cancer screening for women, health care providers play a critical role in increasing screenings. Physicians must address their patients' fears by describing how screening saves lives. Health care providers must communicate with their patients about EDW and other low-cost or free cancer screening services. Because many women in minority populations have limited means or do not know how to access diagnostic services or cancer specialists, health care providers should also act as referral sources.

Individuals have an important role to play in reducing their own risk from cancer. Tobacco use is responsible for at least one-third of all cancer deaths, but smoking cessation is only one way a person can reduce their personal risk of cancer. Over time, a healthy diet, weight control and physical activity can reduce cancer incidence by 30-40 percent. Early detection is the best way to reduce deaths. Women need to be encouraged to receive mammograms and Pap tests on a regular basis so breast and cervical cancer can be detected and treated early. *Source: www.cdc.gov/omh/AMH/factsheets/cancer.htm, as accessed July 26, 2006.*

Cancer Reporting Kansas Cancer Registry

The Kansas Cancer Registry reminds all physicians that they are required to report cancer diagnoses to the Cancer Registry:

Dr. Sue-Min Lai
University of Kansas School of Medicine
3901 Rainbow Blvd, Mailstop 1008
Kansas City, Kansas 66160.

If you have questions, please go to <http://www.kdheks.gov/bhp/index.html>, Cancer Registry, where you will find frequently asked questions, the regulations and sample reporting forms.

Early Detection Works Changes in Eligibility Guidelines

There are some important changes in eligibility guidelines for the Early Detection Works program effective Spring 2006.

The first change specifies that only **uninsured** women qualify for services. The extremely limited exception to the uninsured guideline requires that women have major medical, hospitalization insurance only with at least a \$2,500 unmet deductible **and** prior approval of your regional nurse.

Furthermore, the income ceiling is being decreased from 250 percent of the federal poverty level to 225 percent during the next three years. In practical terms, this means that the income guidelines have not changed since last year and published income amounts are still valid for use in qualifying women for EDW.

Once again, thanks to the Kansas Legislature, the EDW program has received limited state funding to provide services for women under age 40. This includes both breast and cervical services. Services to women under age 35 are offered only to women experiencing symptoms of breast or cervical problems. For women under age 35, pre-approval for services must be obtained from the regional nurse or one of the state nurses at (877) 277-1368.

Cancer Forums Held Across Kansas

Cancer forums have been held across the state this summer by the Kansas Cancer Partnership and the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition. These informational meetings were developed to help establish community support for reducing the burden of cancer in the state.

Cancer places a heavy burden on the residents of Kansas with approximately 12,000 Kansans diagnosed with the disease in 2004 and nearly 5,000 deaths. The cost of cancer is a staggering \$1.6 billion each year in direct medical costs and the cost of lost productivity due to illness and premature death. Much of this cost is paid with public dollars through medical assistance for uninsured Kansans.

As of August 15, EDW will no longer accept bills for the time period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

Since the Cancer Plan was published in March 2005, a coordinated effort to address cancer in the state has begun, yet much work remains. The Cancer Partnership and the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition are working diligently to reduce the burden of cancer and eliminate the health problems caused by smoking, second hand smoke, and the use of tobacco products. Bringing this issue to the forefront will help fight disease and provide a coordinated approach to current efforts in the areas of research, prevention, treatment and the focus of statewide and community programs. For more information, please call (785) 296-1207 or email pohara@kdhe.state.ks.us.

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**Early Detection Works
Office of Health Promotion
Kansas Department of Health & Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 230
Topeka, Kansas 66612 -1274**