

# VA Breast Cancer Screening for Hispanic Veterans



**SHOULDER to SHOULDER**  
Every Step of the Way

## Get Screened for Breast Cancer

VA recommends routine screenings for breast cancer to improve disease outcomes. The earlier the cancer is detected, the more successful the cancer treatment can be, potentially reducing the need for extensive treatments such as chemotherapy.

Hispanics are the largest ethnic minority in the United States. There are currently more than 1.4 million Hispanic Veterans living in the United States and Hispanics represent 7% of the total Veteran population. Veteran women are more racially and

ethnically diverse than Veteran men, and the population of women Veterans is expected to grow to almost 18% by 2040.

The good news is that almost three-quarters of Hispanic Veterans who are eligible for VA health care receive their care through VA and do so regularly and more frequently than the overall Veteran population. VA wants to deliver all Hispanic Veterans the health care and benefits they deserve and have earned.

### Key Facts

- There are approximately 213,000 Hispanic women Veterans in the United States in 2023.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer (and the leading cause of cancer death) among Hispanic women.
- Hispanic women tend to be diagnosed with more advanced breast cancers than white women.

Stage 1A breast cancer has a



**99%**

**SURVIVAL RATE**  
if detected early

### Who Should Get Screened?

- Women aged 40-74 should get screened every other year starting at age 40 to reduce their risk of dying from breast cancer.
- Women Veterans will have the option to screen annually if they would like to do so.
- Women 75 or older, should talk with their provider before making a decision to be screened. Requests to be screened beyond age 75 will be honored following a discussion about the risks and benefits of screening.

### How VA Can Help

VA's Breast and Gynecologic Cancer System of Excellence screens for and aggressively treat the breast and gynecologic cancers impacting Veterans. VA has over 70 facilities with on-site mammography and offer screening at convenient locations in the community.



VA's Center for Minority Veterans has resources and holds engagement events around the country and virtually for Hispanic Veterans to learn more about VA enrollment and benefits.



If you have questions about cancer care or screening options available at VA, visit [cancer.va.gov](https://cancer.va.gov).



Call us to make an appointment at  
800-698-2411

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