West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Abstract:
The West Virginia Breast Cancer Learning Community initially focused on acquiring ArcGIS software and licenses. These were not received until April 2016. ArcGIS training has begun and will be expanded in the coming months. Stakeholders were selected and convened with ASTHO in West Virginia in March 2016. The stakeholder network has been actively engaged in setting goals and objectives for the current grant period and will continue to be involved for 2016-17. Priority was given to mapping West Virginia breast cancer incidence and mortality data. Due to the small numbers of African Americans in the state (3.6%), socioeconomic indicators (poverty/education) were mapped to pinpoint areas with breast cancer disparities. Data and maps presented in the ASTHO State Data Report meeting in May were prepared in partnership with the West Virginia Cancer Registry.

Stakeholders:
WV Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, WV Office of Minority Health, WV Cancer Registry, WV Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, WV Health Statistics Center, WV WISEWOMAN Program, Bonnie’s Bus Mobile Mammography Program, WV University, Marshall University School of Medicine, Breast Cancer Center, Edwards Cancer Center, Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Bureau for Medical Services-Medicaid, Charleston Area Medical Center Research Institute.

Lessons Learned:
- Acquire ArcGIS software/training as early as possible to avoid delays in data mapping, analysis and planning. Hire project coordinator to alleviate burden of work for existing staff.
- Breast cancer disparities likely exist primarily by socioeconomic status and rural/urban residency, not by race/ethnicity.
- Screening and treatment barriers persist in Huntington and Charleston counties, areas with relatively high access to healthcare services.
- Late stage diagnosis rates are associated with the availability of mammography centers in a given county.

From GIS mapping and other analyses performed during Year 1 of this project:

Breast Cancer Screening:
There is a wide range of mammography rates in West Virginia, with some counties experiencing screening rates of less than 50%. Access to mammography centers varies significantly by county, and there are likely transportation barriers in some parts of the state. The Bonnie’s Bus Mobile Mammography Program fills in some of these gaps, but there are unaddressed transportation barriers because the bus cannot reach all areas of need.
Breast Cancer Learning Community

Follow up – Time to Diagnosis/Treatment Initiation:
The time between diagnosis and initiation of treatment is less than 90 days for almost all West Virginia women diagnosed with breast cancer, with elevated rates in the West, Southwest, and the Eastern panhandle. Further engagement of stakeholders from throughout West Virginia to conduct qualitative research could identify any cultural barriers (e.g., fear of the healthcare system) to timely initiation of treatment.

Quality of Treatment:
There are 14 Commission on Cancer (CoC) accredited hospitals interspersed widely throughout West Virginia, with clusters in more densely populated areas. Some areas are still underserved by these accredited treatment centers. Transportation barriers may further limit access to quality treatment for many West Virginia women with breast cancer based on the state’s topography and rural nature.

Progress to Date:
- Purchased online GIS training.
- Revised data maps and additional maps are attached to this report.
- Contractual arrangement with Cancer Registry Epidemiologist has been approved and implemented.
- Epidemiologist is in process of completing online GIS training.

Next Steps:
- Review of payer guidelines for time from diagnosis to treatment.
- Compare map of Federally Qualified Health Centers in West Virginia to areas of screening, late diagnosis and late treatment.
- Survey patients and hospitals in the Huntington, WV area to learn the reason for delay in treatment.
- Expand and improve quality of services provided by Bonnie’s Bus Mobile Mammography Program.
- Use data maps from this project to better inform the outreach efforts of the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program.