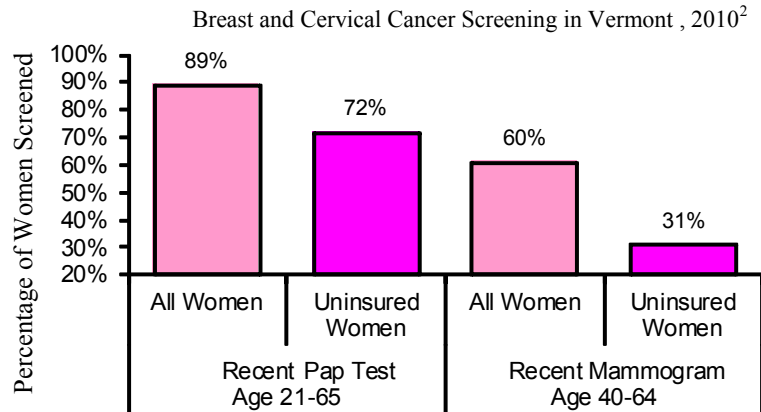




### Breast and Cervical Cancer in Vermont

- It is estimated that 530 women in Vermont will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 80 will die from the disease.<sup>1</sup>
- Finding breast and cervical cancer at an early stage increases the opportunity for effective treatment and patient survival.
- Uninsured and underinsured women have lower screening rates for mammograms and pap tests, resulting in a greater risk of being diagnosed at a later, more advanced, stage of disease.

1. American Cancer Society, Facts and Figures 2015  
 2. American Cancer Society, Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures 2013.



### Vermont's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program

Ladies First provides free pap tests to women aged 21 to 64 and mammograms to women 40 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured and have income below 250% of the federal poverty line.

- From 2008-2012, almost 3,400 Vermont women were served by the program.<sup>3</sup>
- From 2008-2012 the program detected 52 breast cancers and 156 cervical cancers or cancer precursor lesions.<sup>3</sup>

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

### Continued Need in Vermont

The Affordable Care Act provides women with greater access to preventative cancer screenings and treatment. However, gaps still remain for women who continue to be uninsured or underinsured due to affordability, literacy, and language related barriers. It is estimated that over 5,025 Vermont women will continue to lack access to cervical cancer screenings, and 2,103 women will lack access to breast cancer screenings. Establishing dedicated funding of \$270,000 annually for Ladies First will preserve a critical safety net for thousands of Vermont women, who will continue to lack access to essential screening, diagnostic, and treatment services.

## Thousands of Vermont women count on Ladies First for life saving cancer screenings such as mammograms and pap tests.

### Call to Action

ACS CAN recognizes the enormous impact Ladies First has delivered in saving the lives of low-income, uninsured and underinsured women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer. The proven success of this early detection program demands funding levels that will provide access to these services for all eligible women. Establishing dedicated state funding of **\$270,000** annually for breast and cervical cancer screenings for low income, uninsured or underinsured women through the Ladies First program is vital to expand the capacity of the screening program so that no woman is denied these life-saving services.