Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women. An estimated 246,660 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016, and 40,450 women will die as a result. In that same year 12,990 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,120 women will lose their lives. Many of these deaths could be avoided if breast and cervical cancer screening rates increased among underserved women at risk.

Cancer screening can catch cancer earlier when cancers are easier and less expensive to treat. Screening mammography often detects breast cancer early and reduces mortality rates. Cervical cancer screening using the Pap test can actually prevent cancer by detecting precancerous lesions. In fact, cervical cancer screenings are responsible for the steady decline in both incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer over the past several decades. Despite increased awareness of the importance of early detection for these cancers, millions of underinsured and uninsured women across the country still do not have access to these lifesaving screenings.

**Did you know?**
The NBCCEDP is the only nationally organized cancer screening program for underserved women in the U.S.

**National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP): Overview**

Created by Congress in 1990, the NBCCEDP provides breast and cervical cancer screenings; patient navigation; case management; diagnostic services; and public education and outreach to women. NBCCEDP has provided over 12 million screening exams to more than 4.8 million women, detecting nearly 68,000 breast cancers, over 3,700 cervical cancers, and over 171,000 premalignant cervical lesions.

Administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the NBCCEDP is available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five US territories, and 11 American Indian/Alaska Native organizations. Since 2000, states have the option to provide women screened and diagnosed through the program access to treatment services through the state Medicaid program.

**National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: More Than a Screening Program**

The NBCCEDP is more than a screening program for low-income women. Through cooperative agreements with states, territories, and tribes the program provides a range of important services to lower income women with cancer – including:

- **Case Management and Patient Navigation** – Women get assistance scheduling screening appointments and follow-up diagnostic tests, understanding screening results, obtaining referrals for treatment services when needed, and overcoming barriers to treatment access.

- **Diagnostic and Follow-up Services** - States have the option to provide low-income women screened and diagnosed through the program access to treatment services through the state Medicaid program.

Through national and local partnerships the NBCCEDP also helps to identify and provide services to hard-to-reach women, and enhances screening awareness among women.

**Did you know?**
As part of the NBCCEDP enrollment process, staff members help potential enrollee’s determine if they are eligibility for other forms of insurance coverage prior to reimbursing for any services. Therefore, the NBCCEDP is a payer of last resort and services cannot exceed Medicare reimbursement rates.
National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: Quality Services

The NBCCEDP strives to provide quality care to the women it serves. The CDC evaluates the performance of the NBCCEDP based on nationally established program quality standards - called the Data Quality Indicator Guides (DQIG). Specifically, CDC evaluates:

- **Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement** – Clinical and service delivery data is compared to the CDC’s predetermined performance benchmarks.
- **Data Management** – NBCCEDP grantees are required to provide the CDC biennial reports of patient demographic and clinical data, which are used by both the CDC and the grantees for quality assurance, quality improvement, program evaluation, research, and program policy development.
- **Professional Development** – CDC evaluates whether participating providers are current on evidence-based clinical standards to improve clinical outcomes and improve screening rates.

These quality standards ensure that programs are effective and women are receiving appropriate and high quality screenings, diagnostic, and follow-up services.

ACS CAN Supports Continuation of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

The NBCCEDP is an important tool in the fight against cancer. The program raises awareness among women about the importance of getting screened, it assures timely access to screening services, and assures appropriate treatment referrals for women diagnosed with cancer. The outcome of the NBCCEDP is that more women will be screened at earlier stages, when cancer survival rates are highest and costs of treatment are lowest.

The need for the NBCCEDP is still great. Although the Affordable Care Act (ACA) increased access to breast and cervical cancer screening and services through expanded health care coverage and elimination of cost-sharing, millions of low-income, underserved women still do not have adequate access to screening services. While many states have expanded access to Medicaid, as of April 2015, an estimated 2.6 million lower-income women (age 40-64) remain uninsured. These women are eligible for breast cancer screenings and services through the NBCCEDP. Similarly, an estimated 5.7 million women (age 21-64) are eligible for cervical cancer screenings and services through NBCCEDP.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is committed to ensuring that all women have the opportunity to get potentially lifesaving cancer screenings and services. We urge you to continue support for the NBCCEDP program in your state.