

# NEWS



## Jackson County Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**FOR RELEASE:**

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### Stand Against Cancer Press Release

Jackson County Health Department is pleased to announce free breast and cervical cancer screening for qualified women. *Stand Against Cancer* is a free service that includes a clinical breast exam, pap smear, and pelvic exam provided by our on-site physician assistant, Andrea Goodman. To qualify for the services, women must be between 18 and 39 years of age, uninsured, and have a household income of less than 250% of the federal poverty level. For example, a woman whose family of four has an annual income under \$55, 876 would qualify for these free screenings.

In addition, Jackson County Health Department will be offering education about breast and cervical cancer to community groups and special events. The focus will be on identifying women who qualify for free screenings and making referrals for the screenings. The *Stand Against Cancer* program is funded through the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services, and provides breast and cervical cancer screening to low income, uninsured women in Illinois.

Illinois has the sixth highest mortality rate for breast and cervical cancer in the nation. Women of color and uninsured women have significantly higher mortality rates than white women and /or insured women. Although a higher percentage of white women are diagnosed with breast cancer, African American and Hispanic women have higher death rates due to delayed diagnosis and less access to treatment. With the *Stand Against Cancer* program, Jackson County Health Department hopes to increase access to breast and cervical cancer screening for these low income, uninsured women in Southern Illinois.

For more information about the *Stand Against Cancer* program, including income eligibility, or to make an appointment for services, please call Jackson County Health Department at 618-684-3143, ext. 150. To arrange for a presentation or health fair display, call 684-3143, ext. 133.

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