

# Expanding Breast Health Access in Pierce County

*Community -led. Culturally rooted. Focused on early detection.*

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## Background

- Black and BIPOC individuals who identify as women in Pierce County are less likely to receive timely mammograms and more likely to die from breast cancer compared to their white counterparts.
- Community trust, access, and navigation remain core barriers.
- LIWH responds through a culturally grounded navigator model.

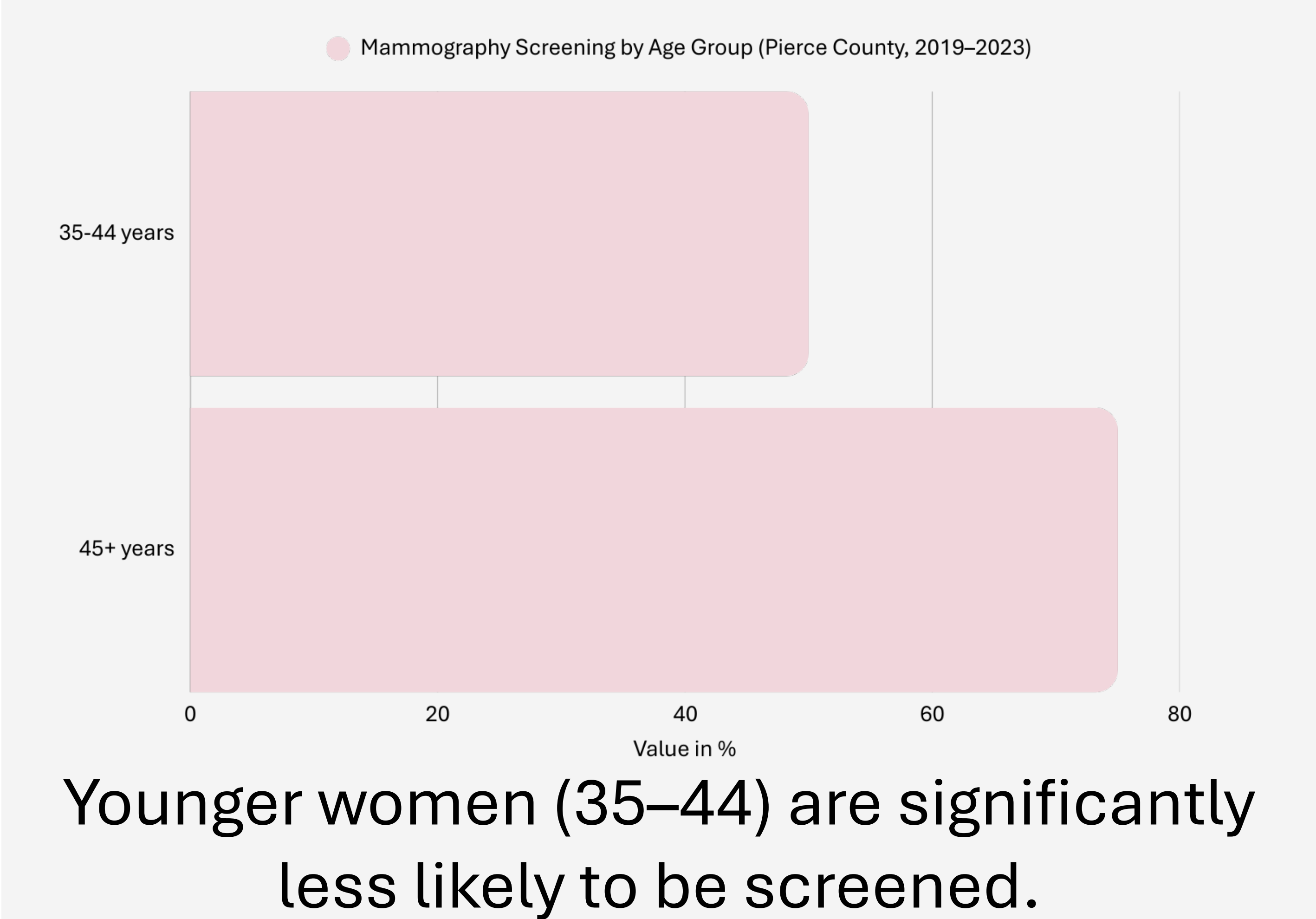
## Program Goals

- Screen 150+ African American and other women of color annually
- Expand reach with 2 additional Breast Health Navigators (BHNs)
- Reduce barriers: transportation, scheduling, insurance

## What We Did

- Trained and deployed 2 Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Real-time appointment scheduling.
- Provided gift cards for transportation/groceries.
- Collaborated with local partners for screening events.

## The Challenge



## Breast Cancer Affects Our Community: 718 Women Diagnosed Every Year in Pierce County

- Pierce County’s breast cancer rate: 139 cases per 100,000 women.
- This number hasn’t changed in 5 years – but our work aims to change that.

## 718 Reasons to Act: Breast Cancer is Still Too Common in Pierce County

- Each year, 718 women face a diagnosis.
- Pierce County’s rate: 139.4 cases per 100,000 women, higher than many counties.
- Rates have stayed the same, but we’re working to break that cycle

## What We’re Hearing

- Increased trust in health systems.
- Partnered with 4 local organizations to expand outreach.
- Strengthened navigation for women with limited English access.

“I felt at ease knowing someone was on my team.”  
– Participant, Breast Health Navigator program

Where breast cancer screenings are missing, so are lives. For Black women, closing this gap is about more than data it’s about survival. - Provider

The absence of detailed breast cancer data for Black women in Pierce County highlights a deeper issue – we can’t fix what we don’t fully see. Leaders in Women’s Health is working to change that. - EC Member

## Social Vulnerability & Equity

SVI analysis shows lower breast cancer diagnoses in more vulnerable areas.

“Lower rates may reflect screening gaps, not lower risk.

## What’s Next

- Expand navigator outreach into high-SVI communities.
- Culturally responsive training for BHNs
- Push to improve screening among younger and underserved women

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Learn more about us here

