

The SF CAN Breast Cancer Team focuses on reducing the proportion of women diagnosed with advanced-stage breast cancer in San Francisco.



Who we are:

Team Lead:

Andreas Mitchell, MD, MPP

Program Staff:

Kara Lugtu, MPH, CPH, SF CAN Colorectal Cancer & Breast Cancer Project Manager

Partners:

- American Cancer Society
- Breast Cancer Connections
- Breast Cancer Emergency Fund
- Chinatown Public Health Center
- Circulo de Vida
- CPMC Sister to Sister Network
- Kaiser Permanente San Francisco
- Pilipino Senior Resource Center
- Shanti Project
- Margot Murphy Breast Cancer Program
- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Women's Cancer Network
- Zero Breast Cancer
- Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

Success 1: Improving mammography screening through community health center collaboration

Our approach:

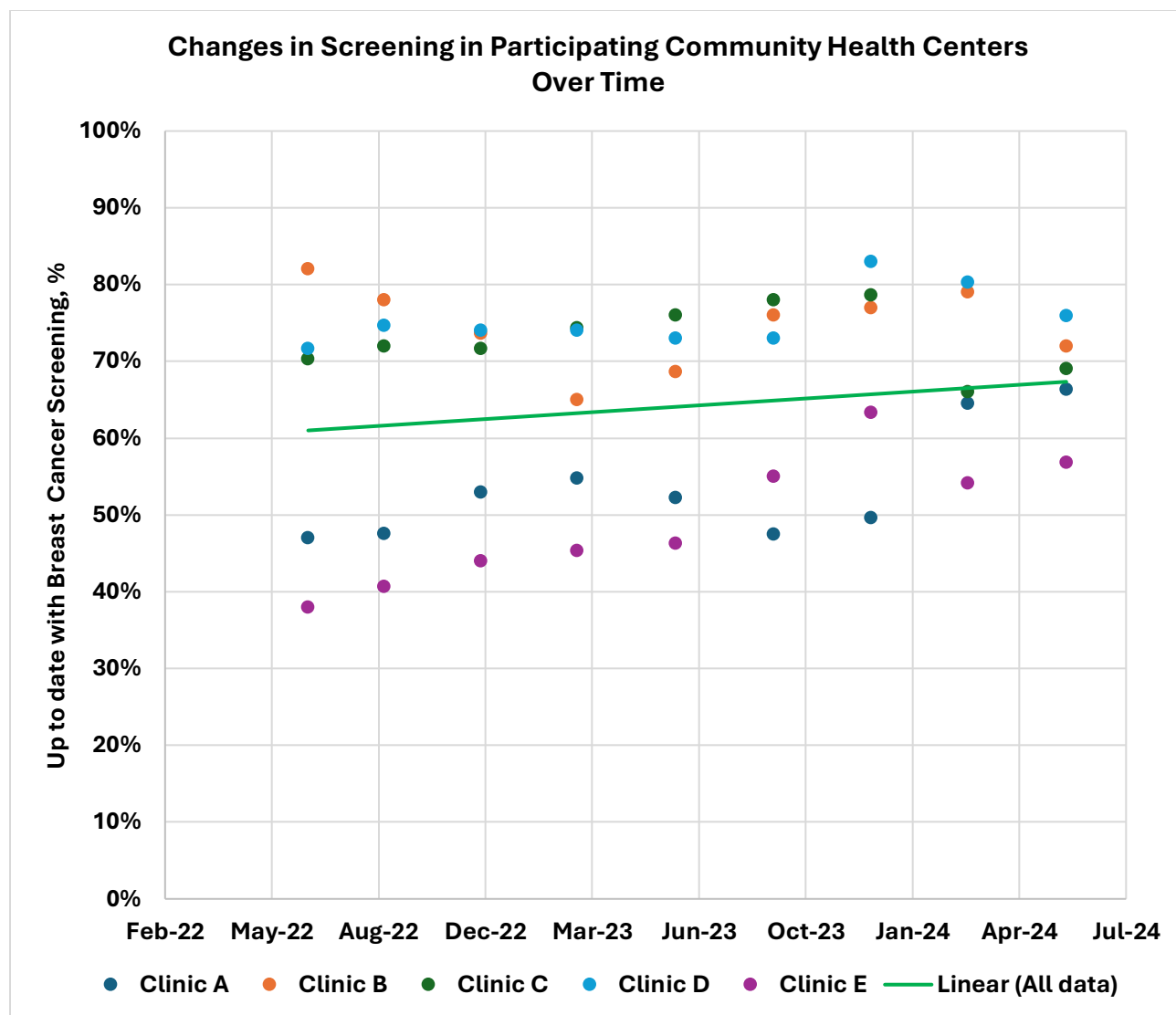
The SF CAN Breast Cancer Team invites member clinics of the San Francisco Health Network and the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium to apply for the Quality Improvement Stipend Program. This program aims to raise Mammography rates across the clinics.

Clinics are invited to apply, proposing evidence-based breast cancer screening interventions, choosing from a checklist of options from the US Guide to Community Preventive Services. Feedback on proposals is provided by the Breast Cancer Team leadership team before stipends are awarded.

Awardees receive:

- Stipend for proposed activities
- Staff trainings
- Patient education materials
- Monthly technical assistance meetings
- Sharing best practices with local awardees.

We have been tracking screening rates at participating clinics that are participating. The following graph shows an increase in the percentage of patients up to date with breast cancer screening, while working with the Breast Cancer Team, as seen by the green linear trend line.



Research prompting this approach:

The most effective way to prevent breast cancer is to promote early detection through mammography. Increasing access to screening and reducing barriers to timely mammography are key strategies to reduce advanced-stage diagnosis and improve survival.

Future Goals:

The Breast Cancer Team will continue providing stipends and technical assistance to San Francisco clinics with the goal of further increasing mammography screening rates.

Success 2: Community outreach, awareness, and patient support through tabling and fundraising

Our approach:

The Breast Cancer Team engages directly with the San Francisco community through tabling at health fairs, clinic events, and community gatherings to raise awareness of mammography and early breast cancer detection. These outreach efforts provide opportunities to share educational materials, answer questions, and connect community members with screening resources and partner organizations.

In addition to tabling and outreach, the Team has consistently supported the NOVA 12 Walk for the past seven years. This annual fundraising event raises approximately \$60,000–\$70,000 each year, with funds used to provide services and support for breast cancer patients in San Francisco. Together, community outreach and fundraising efforts help reduce barriers to screening and care while strengthening community engagement.

Research prompting this approach:

Research shows that community-based education and outreach increase awareness of cancer screening, improve knowledge about early detection, and encourage participation in preventive health services.

Future Goals:

The Breast Cancer Team will continue participating in community events and health fairs across San Francisco in partnership with local organizations. The Breast Cancer Team will also continue supporting fundraising efforts such as the NOVA 12 Walk to support patient services.

Publications:

- Guan A, Lichtensztajn D, Oh D, et al. Breast Cancer in San Francisco: Disentangling Disparities at the Neighborhood Level. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2019;28(12):1968-1976. doi:[10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-19-0799](https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-19-0799)