In Boston, Black women have the highest breast cancer screening rates — almost 90% — amongst all women.2

Women of color and LGBTQ women face unique barriers when it comes to receiving preventative care, including:

- Lack of awareness about culturally competent providers*
- No or limited health insurance
- Discrimination within the community and in health care settings

In Boston, Black women have the highest breast cancer screening rates — almost 90% — amongst all women.2

The National Cancer Institute estimates that 252,710 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017.1 Although breast cancer rates have decreased in Boston since 2007, women of color and LGBTQ women continue to be disproportionately affected.2

62.1 57.3 72.5

65.4 62.1 57.3 72.5

Age of Death from Breast Cancer

* Five Tips to Finding Culturally Competent Care

1. Does the organization use inclusive language and imagery in its promotional materials?

2. Does the organization specifically name the LGBTQ community as one of its priorities?

3. Reach out to the LGBTQ community for referrals.

4. Ask your provider to advocate for affirming services, by referring you to other culturally competent providers or by making sure you are able to properly navigate the healthcare system.

5. Understand how a previous negative experience within the healthcare system, such as being denied care because of your sexual orientation or gender identity, may affect how you experience care in the future.

Yet, on average, women of color die earlier after a breast cancer diagnosis in comparison to white women.2

Lack of safe and affordable health care can have devastating effects on LGBTQ women. Here are five things to consider when seeking culturally competent care.

SOURCES


