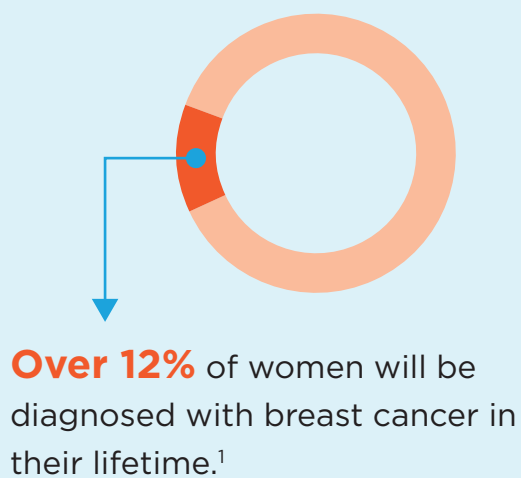


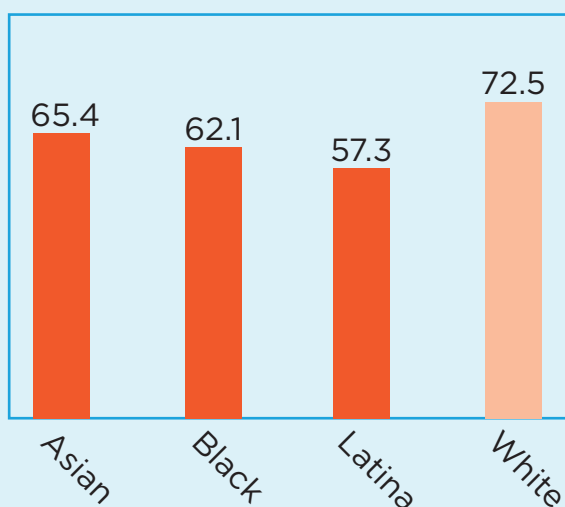
# OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The National Cancer Institute estimates that 252,710 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017.<sup>1</sup> Although breast cancer rates have decreased in Boston since 2007, women of color and LGBTQ women continue to be disproportionately affected.<sup>2</sup>



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

Age of Death from Breast Cancer



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

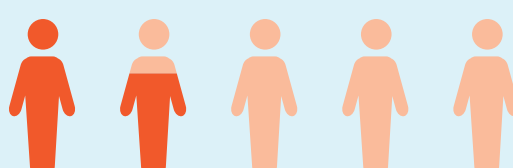
Women of color and LGBTQ women face **unique barriers** when it comes to receiving preventative care, including:

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



**1 in 5** transgender people have been denied treatment by medical providers.<sup>3</sup>

**33%** of bisexual women did not disclose their sexual orientation to their provider to avoid discrimination, compared to 13% of lesbians.<sup>4</sup>



## \* Five Tips to Finding Culturally Competent Care

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.

- 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.

### SOURCES

1. SEER Cancer Stat Facts: Female Breast Cancer. National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/breast.html>
2. "2016 Community Health Needs Assessment." Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 22 Sept. 2016.
3. "Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch: Resource Guide." Fenway Health, 1 Oct. 2017.
4. "Invisible Majority: The Disparities Facing Bisexual People and How to Remedy Them." Movement Advancement Project (MAP), Sept. 2016.