



## VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

### Health Interview Survey

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FROM THE  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

### Characteristics of Females Ever Having a Breast Examination and Interval Since Last Examination, United States, 1973

During 1973, data were collected in the Health Interview Survey on the most recent examinations obtained by persons in the civilian noninstitutionalized population to provide early detection of disease. Included among these examinations were electrocardiograms (EKG), glaucoma tests, chest X-rays, eye

examinations, breast examinations, routine physicals for children under 17 years of age, and pap smears (Papanicolaou test). This is the first time such data have been collected in the Health Interview Survey. A more detailed report of all types of preventive services collected in the survey is planned for re-

Table 1. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over ever having or never having breast examinations, according to family income and age: United States, 1973

Family income and age	Total <sup>1</sup>	Ever had examination	Never had examination	Total <sup>1</sup>	Ever had examination	Never had examination
<u>All family income<sup>2</sup></u>	Number in thousands			Percent		
All females, 17 years and over--	75,161	57,372	14,557	100.0	76.3	19.4
17-24 years-----	15,062	9,815	4,547	100.0	65.2	30.2
25-44 years-----	25,862	22,958	2,097	100.0	88.8	8.1
45-64 years-----	22,370	17,584	3,765	100.0	78.6	16.8
65 years and over-----	11,867	7,015	4,148	100.0	59.1	35.0
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>						
All females, 17 years and over--	16,297	10,744	4,962	100.0	65.9	30.4
17-24 years-----	3,260	2,349	812	100.0	72.1	24.9
25-44 years-----	2,793	2,231	479	100.0	79.9	17.2
45-64 years-----	4,172	2,822	1,223	100.0	67.6	29.3
65 years and over-----	6,072	3,342	2,447	100.0	55.0	40.3
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>						
All females, 17 years and over--	18,739	14,514	3,500	100.0	77.5	18.7
17-24 years-----	4,365	3,171	1,018	100.0	72.6	23.3
25-44 years-----	6,223	5,388	644	100.0	86.6	10.3
45-64 years-----	5,472	4,207	1,039	100.0	76.9	19.0
65 years and over-----	2,679	1,747	800	100.0	65.2	29.9
<u>\$10,000-or more</u>						
All females, 17 years and over--	34,590	28,497	4,782	100.0	82.4	13.8
17-24 years-----	6,565	3,826	2,407	100.0	58.3	36.7
25-44 years-----	15,330	14,184	764	100.0	92.5	5.0
45-64 years-----	10,771	9,188	1,137	100.0	85.3	10.6
65 years and over-----	1,924	1,299	474	100.0	67.5	24.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown if examined.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown income.

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lease within the year. This report presents data on the proportion of females 17 years and over ever having a breast examination by a doctor and the interval since the most recent examination for breast cancer by age, family income, and education and color of the individual.

Based on the data collected during 1973, approximately three-fourths of all civilian noninstitutionalized females 17 years and over had at least one breast examination prior to the interview (table 1). Approximately 62.9 percent of the 57 million females who ever had a breast examination had the examination during the preceding year (table 2). More than 90 percent (92.3 percent) of this group had the examination within the past 5 years. Although a higher proportion of females 25-44 years of age had had a breast examination (88.8 percent) than did females of other ages, females in the 17-24 age group were more likely to have had the examination in the past year (78.8 percent). Proportionately fewer females 65 years and over had ever had a breast examination compared to other age groups and were less likely to have had a recent examination.

There was a direct relationship between family income and the percent of females ever having a breast examination. As income level rose, so did the percentage of females having a breast examination, ranging from 65.9 percent for those with less than \$5,000 annual income to 82.4 percent for those with

family incomes of \$10,000 or more. There was also a direct relationship between increasing income and the percentage of females having recent breast examinations (within the past year), ranging from 56.1 percent in the lowest income group to 66.3 percent in the highest.

Awareness of the need for preventive examinations is directly related to education. Table 3 shows that females who have not completed high school were less likely to ever have had a breast examination than those females who have completed more years of education, ranging from 66.3 percent among females who never completed high school to 85.5 percent of those completing at least 1 year of college. There was also an increase in the percentage of females having recent examinations with higher education (table 4).

Table 5 shows data comparing the proportion of white females with other females 17 years and over ever having a breast examination. Approximately 77.1 percent of the white female population had had a breast examination compared to 70.5 percent of other females. Although slightly more white females had had this examination for breast cancer than did other females, white females were not as likely to have had a recent examination (table 6). Among white females, 62.5 percent had had a breast examination in the past year compared to 66.3 percent of other females.

## SYMBOLS

Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

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Table 2. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over having breast examinations by interval since last examination, according to family income and age: United States, 1974

Family income and age	Total with examination	Interval since last examination			
		Less than 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or more
Number in thousands					
<u>All family income<sup>1</sup></u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	57,372	36,070	13,275	3,591	4,436
17-24 years-----	9,815	7,739	1,769	252	55
25-44 years-----	22,958	15,443	5,264	1,229	1,022
45-64 years-----	17,584	9,506	4,530	1,431	2,117
65 years and over-----	7,015	3,381	1,713	679	1,242
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	10,744	6,028	2,571	855	1,289
17-24 years-----	2,349	1,793	455	91	*
25-44 years-----	2,231	1,415	550	138	127
45-64 years-----	2,822	1,274	783	264	501
65 years and over-----	3,342	1,546	784	361	651
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	14,514	8,879	3,452	1,003	1,180
17-24 years-----	3,171	2,495	582	71	*
25-44 years-----	5,388	3,432	1,318	334	305
45-64 years-----	4,207	2,141	1,089	410	567
65 years and over-----	1,747	811	463	188	284
<u>\$10,000 or more</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	28,497	18,894	6,454	1,505	1,644
17-24 years-----	3,826	3,068	658	79	*
25-44 years-----	14,184	9,826	3,142	688	527
45-64 years-----	9,188	5,303	2,330	662	893
65 years and over-----	1,299	697	324	76	202
Percent distribution					
<u>All family income<sup>1</sup></u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	62.9	23.1	6.3	7.7
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.8	18.0	2.6	0.6
25-44 years-----	100.0	67.3	22.9	5.4	4.5
45-64 years-----	100.0	54.1	25.8	8.1	12.0
65 years and over-----	100.0	48.2	24.4	9.7	17.7
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	56.1	23.9	8.0	12.0
17-24 years-----	100.0	76.3	19.4	3.9	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	63.4	24.7	6.2	5.7
45-64 years-----	100.0	45.1	27.7	9.4	17.8
65 years and over-----	100.0	46.3	23.5	10.8	19.5
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	61.2	23.8	6.9	8.1
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.7	18.4	2.2	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	63.7	24.5	6.2	5.7
45-64 years-----	100.0	50.9	25.9	9.7	13.5
65 years and over-----	100.0	46.4	26.5	10.8	16.3
<u>\$10,000 or more</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	66.3	22.6	5.3	5.8
17-24 years-----	100.0	80.2	17.2	2.1	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	69.3	22.2	4.9	3.7
45-64 years-----	100.0	57.7	25.4	7.2	9.7
65 years and over-----	100.0	53.7	24.9	5.9	15.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown income.

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Table 3. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over ever having or never having breast examinations, according to educational level of individual and age: United States, 1973

Educational level of individual and age	Total <sup>1</sup>			Total <sup>1</sup>		
	Ever had examination	Never had examination		Ever had examination	Never had examination	
<u>All educational levels<sup>2</sup></u>	Number in thousands			Percent		
All females 17 years and over-----	75,161	57,372	14,557	100.0	76.3	19.4
17-24 years-----	15,062	9,815	4,547	100.0	65.2	30.2
25-44 years-----	25,862	22,958	2,097	100.0	88.8	8.1
45-64 years-----	22,370	17,584	3,765	100.0	78.6	16.8
65 years and over-----	11,867	7,015	4,148	100.0	59.1	35.0
<u>Less than 12 years</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	28,348	18,796	8,334	100.0	66.3	29.4
17-24 years-----	4,394	2,322	1,872	100.0	52.8	42.6
25-44 years-----	6,739	5,491	997	100.0	81.5	14.8
45-64 years-----	9,536	6,765	2,404	100.0	70.9	25.2
65 years and over-----	7,680	4,218	3,061	100.0	54.9	39.9
<u>12 years</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	29,402	24,115	4,186	100.0	82.0	14.2
17-24 years-----	6,461	4,485	1,727	100.0	69.4	26.7
25-44 years-----	11,991	10,919	756	100.0	91.1	6.3
45-64 years-----	8,625	7,154	1,056	100.0	82.9	12.2
65 years and over-----	2,325	1,557	647	100.0	67.0	27.8
<u>13 years or more</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	16,599	14,197	1,855	100.0	85.5	11.2
17-24 years-----	4,044	2,969	909	100.0	73.4	22.5
25-44 years-----	6,983	6,481	323	100.0	92.8	4.6
45-64 years-----	4,001	3,587	276	100.0	89.7	6.9
65 years and over-----	1,571	1,160	347	100.0	73.8	22.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown if examined.<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown education.

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Table 4. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over having breast examinations by interval since last examination, according to educational level of individual and age: United States, 1973

Educational level of individual and age	Total with examination	Interval since last examination			
		Less than 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or more
Number in thousands					
<u>All educational levels<sup>1</sup></u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	57,372	36,070	13,275	3,591	4,436
17-24 years-----	9,815	7,739	1,769	252	55
25-44 years-----	22,958	15,443	5,264	1,229	1,022
45-64 years-----	17,584	9,506	4,530	1,431	2,117
65 years and over-----	7,015	3,381	1,713	679	1,242
<u>Less than 12 years</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	18,796	10,230	4,769	1,581	2,215
17-24 years-----	2,322	1,723	514	72	*
25-44 years-----	5,491	3,286	1,359	441	405
45-64 years-----	6,765	3,271	1,835	647	1,012
65 years and over-----	4,218	1,950	1,062	421	784
<u>12 years</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	24,115	15,594	5,594	1,379	1,548
17-24 years-----	4,485	3,643	718	97	*
25-44 years-----	10,919	7,205	2,680	579	454
45-64 years-----	7,154	3,955	1,845	558	797
65 years and over-----	1,557	792	351	145	270
<u>13 years or more</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	14,197	10,076	2,845	618	658
17-24 years-----	2,969	2,344	533	79	*
25-44 years-----	6,481	4,910	1,208	207	157
45-64 years-----	3,587	2,228	829	223	307
65 years and over-----	1,160	594	275	110	181
Percent distribution					
<u>All educational levels<sup>1</sup></u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	100.0	62.9	23.1	6.3	7.7
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.8	18.0	2.6	0.6
25-44 years-----	100.0	67.3	22.9	5.4	4.5
45-64 years-----	100.0	54.1	25.8	8.1	12.0
65 years and over-----	100.0	48.2	24.4	9.7	17.7
<u>Less than 12 years</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	100.0	54.4	25.4	8.4	11.8
17-24 years-----	100.0	74.2	22.1	3.1	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	59.8	24.7	8.0	7.4
45-64 years-----	100.0	48.4	27.1	9.6	15.0
65 years and over-----	100.0	46.2	25.2	10.0	18.6
<u>12 years</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	100.0	64.7	23.2	5.7	6.4
17-24 years-----	100.0	81.2	16.0	2.2	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	66.0	24.5	5.3	4.2
45-64 years-----	100.0	55.3	25.8	7.8	11.1
65 years and over-----	100.0	50.9	22.5	9.3	17.3
<u>13 years or more</u>					
All females 17 years and over-----	100.0	71.0	20.0	4.4	4.6
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.9	18.0	2.7	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	75.8	18.6	3.2	2.4
45-64 years-----	100.0	62.1	23.1	6.2	8.6
65 years and over-----	100.0	51.2	23.7	9.5	15.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown education.

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Table 5. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over ever having or never having breast examinations, according to color and age: United States, 1973

Color and age	Total <sup>1</sup>	Ever had examination	Never had examination	Total <sup>1</sup>	Ever had examination	Never had examination
	Number in thousands			Percent		
<u>All color</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	75,161	57,372	14,557	100.0	76.3	19.4
17-24 years-----	15,062	9,815	4,547	100.0	65.2	30.2
25-44 years-----	25,862	22,958	2,097	100.0	88.8	8.1
45-64 years-----	22,370	17,584	3,765	100.0	78.6	16.8
65 years and over-----	11,867	7,015	4,148	100.0	59.1	35.0
<u>White</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	66,380	51,178	12,517	100.0	77.1	18.9
17-24 years-----	12,923	8,375	3,995	100.0	64.8	30.9
25-44 years-----	22,520	20,178	1,693	100.0	89.6	7.5
45-64 years-----	20,085	16,084	3,145	100.0	80.1	15.7
65 years and over-----	10,853	6,540	3,683	100.0	60.3	33.9
<u>All other</u>						
All females 17 years and over-----	8,781	6,194	2,040	100.0	70.5	23.2
17-24 years-----	2,140	1,440	551	100.0	67.3	25.7
25-44 years-----	3,343	2,779	404	100.0	83.1	12.1
45-64 years-----	2,285	1,500	620	100.0	65.6	27.1
65 years and over-----	1,014	475	465	100.0	46.8	45.9

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown if examined.

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Table 6. Number and percent distribution of females 17 years and over having breast examinations by interval since last examination, according to color and age: United States, 1974

Color and age	Total with examination	Interval since last examination			
		Less than 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5 years or more
Number in thousands					
<u>All color</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	57,372	36,070	13,275	3,591	4,436
17-24 years-----	9,815	7,739	1,769	252	55
25-44 years-----	22,958	15,443	5,264	1,229	1,022
45-64 years-----	17,584	9,506	4,530	1,431	2,117
65 years and over-----	7,015	3,381	1,713	679	1,242
<u>White</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	51,178	31,961	11,868	3,266	4,084
17-24 years-----	8,375	6,593	1,507	227	48
25-44 years-----	20,178	13,578	4,608	1,079	913
45-64 years-----	16,084	8,658	4,154	1,322	1,949
65 years and over-----	6,540	3,131	1,598	637	1,174
<u>All others</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	6,194	4,109	1,407	325	352
17-24 years-----	1,440	1,146	262	*	*
25-44 years-----	2,779	1,865	656	150	109
45-64 years-----	1,500	848	375	109	168
65 years and over-----	475	250	115	42	68
Percent distribution					
<u>All color</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	62.9	23.1	6.3	7.7
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.8	18.0	2.6	0.6
25-44 years-----	100.0	67.3	22.9	5.4	4.5
45-64 years-----	100.0	54.1	25.8	8.1	12.0
65 years and over-----	100.0	48.2	24.4	9.7	17.7
<u>White</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	62.5	23.2	6.4	8.0
17-24 years-----	100.0	78.7	18.0	2.7	0.6
25-44 years-----	100.0	67.3	22.8	5.3	4.5
45-64 years-----	100.0	53.8	25.8	8.2	12.1
65 years and over-----	100.0	47.9	24.4	9.7	18.0
<u>All others</u>					
All females, 17 years and over-----	100.0	66.3	22.7	5.2	5.7
17-24 years-----	100.0	79.6	18.2	*	*
25-44 years-----	100.0	67.1	23.6	5.4	3.9
45-64 years-----	100.0	56.5	25.0	7.3	11.2
65 years and over-----	100.0	52.6	24.2	8.8	14.3

### Technical Notes

**SOURCE OF DATA:** The data presented in this report were obtained from household interviews in the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted throughout calendar year 1973 in a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During that year approximately 120,000 persons living in about 41,000 households were included in the sample.

The question "About how long has it been since you had a breast examination by a doctor?" was asked for each female household member 17 years and over, and was the only question asked on breast examinations in the interview.

**SAMPLING:** Since the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population rather than for the entire

population, they are subject to sampling error. The standard errors appropriate for the percent of females with breast examinations and the interval since the last breast examination are shown in tables I and II.

The selected differences stated in the text of this report have been tested and have been found to be significant at the .05 significance level. The reader should be cautioned that differences observed in the tables of this report are not necessarily statistically significant and may only be due to sampling error.

For a more detailed discussion of the limitations and qualifications of data collected in the Health Interview Survey, see Series 10, No. 95 entitled: *Current Estimates from the Health Interview Survey, United States, 1973.*

GPO 899-748

Table I. STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF AGGREGATES

Size of estimates in thousands	Standard error in thousands
100-----	18
200-----	26
300-----	31
500-----	40
1,000-----	57
2,000-----	80
3,000-----	98
5,000-----	125
10,000-----	174
20,000-----	237
30,000-----	278
50,000-----	325

Table II. STANDARD ERRORS, EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGE POINTS, OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES

Base of per- centage in thousands	Estimated percentage				
	2 98	5 95	10 90	20 80	50
100-----	2.5	3.9	5.4	7.2	9.0
200-----	1.8	2.8	3.8	5.1	6.4
300-----	1.5	2.3	3.1	4.2	5.2
500-----	1.1	1.8	2.4	3.2	4.0
1,000-----	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.9
2,000-----	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.0
3,000-----	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.6
5,000-----	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3
10,000-----	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
20,000-----	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
30,000-----	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
50,000-----	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4

To receive the Monthly Vital Statistics Report regularly, contact the National Center for Health Statistics by calling 301-443-NCCHS.

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