

A Retrospective Analysis of Pap Smear and Mammography Referrals at a Student-Run Free Clinic

The Brooklyn Free Clinic (BFC) is a student-run free clinic that provides healthcare services to medically underserved patients. Little is known about the use of pap smear and mammogram screening at BFC. We aim to analyze the rate of pap smear and mammogram referrals at BFC.

A retrospective chart review of all female patients seen between 1/2020-12/2021. Outcomes of interest were the rate of pap smear and mammogram referrals and its association with demographics, types of visits (in-person vs telehealth), and purpose of visits (health maintenance vs OBGYN-related).

Of 204 female patients seen, 23 (11.3%) had referrals for pap smear only, 22 (10.8%) for mammogram only, 10 (4.9%) for both, and 149 (73.0%) for neither. Based on the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) age of screening recommendation, 184 (90.2%) were eligible for pap smear and 53 (26.0%) were eligible for mammogram. Of 184 patients 21-65 years old, 31 (16.8%) were referred for pap smear. Of 53 patients 50-74 years old, 20 (37.8%) were referred for mammogram. 153 patients visited the clinic for health maintenance, of which 18.9% and 15.7% were referred for mammogram and pap smear, respectively. 70 patients visited the clinic for OBGYN-related concerns, of which 14.3% and 22.9% were referred for mammogram and pap smear, respectively. Patients were more likely to be referred for either pap smear or mammogram during in-person visits than telehealth visits (87.9% vs 12.1% for pap smear; 62.5% vs 37.5% for mammogram).

Referral rate was generally higher for mammogram than pap smear despite higher percentage of pap smear-eligible patients served at BFC, except for patients with OBGYN-related concerns. A lower percentage of patients were referred to mammogram and pap smear during telehealth than in-person visits, suggesting a gap in care based on modality. Future studies should focus on understanding factors associated with eligible patients who were not referred for pap smear and mammogram.