

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

October 1, 2024

**October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

*Take time to educate, participate, and encourage yourself and others*

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is promoting October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the cells of the breast. It can affect anyone, no matter their gender, background, or identity. Routine screening can detect cancer in its early stages, which provides a better chance of successful treatment. The GTCHD participates in the [Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program](#) (BC3NP), which offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings to anyone eligible.

According to the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) (MDHHS), they estimate about 9,410 Michigan residents will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 1,350 Michiganders will die from breast cancer this year alone.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends that individuals get screened for breast cancer annually from ages 50 to 74. People with risk factors or concerns should speak to their healthcare provider about beginning breast cancer screenings before age 50. A common breast cancer screening technique is the mammogram, which is a low-dose x-ray picture of the breast.

BC3NP is a federal program funded by the CDC and is administered by MDHHS. Those who are eligible for the program include anyone uninsured or underinsured, at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, ages 40 to 64 years for breast cancer, and ages 21 to 64 years for cervical cancer services.

To learn more about our breast and cervical cancer screenings at the GTCHD, visit our [website](#) or call our reproductive team at 231-995-6113 to schedule an appointment.

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