

Women's Health Improvement Network

Project Summary & Goals

Nuestra Clínica del Valle (NCDV) collaborated with the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) and a multitude of health and human service providers on a pilot project called WIN—Women's Health Improvement Network. The purpose of this project was to provide mammograms and follow-up care for low-income, high-risk women, age 40 and older living in Hidalgo County *colonias* to detect and treat residents with breast cancer. CCHD *promotores* provided outreach, assessment, case management (service coordination), and follow-up services for any clients needing follow-up care.

Project goals were:

- To provide free mammograms for high-risk women living in colonias in Hidalgo County
- To connect women with abnormal mammograms with follow up care, coordinated by promotoras
- To improve health outcomes for women living in colonias

Principal Investigator

Julie St. John

Project Dates

2008-2009

Communities Involved

Hidalgo County

Funders

Hidalgo County

Partners

Nuestra Clínica del Valle
Dr. E. Linda Villarreal
Advance Medical Imaging
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance
Knapp Medical Center
Mission Regional Medical Center
Rio Grande Regional Hospital
South Texas Health System
Edinburg Regional Medical Center
Hidalgo-Starr Medical Society

Outcomes

- Of the original 250 women who received a screening mammogram, 31 needed additional follow-up services.
- An additional 1,104 new clients (NCDV clients who needed breast follow-up care) were added to the WIN project in January-April 2009; of those, 214 needed follow-up beyond the first procedure.
- Five WIN clients were diagnosed with malignant breast cancer (and one confirmed case of lung cancer), and they were referred to appropriate services for treatment.

A total of 1,719 Hidalgo County residents received assistance through the WIN project (initial screenings and those receiving actual procedures and follow-up care).