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Mammogram Intervention Increases Screenings Among Low-Income and Minorities

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In September 2006, *Reuters Health* reported that Electra Paskett of Ohio State University and colleagues conducted a trial period of interventions to improve mammogram screenings. The group assigned three in-person visits to 841 low-income and minority women in North Carolina, along with women living in rural areas of the state. The visits occurred over a 12-month period by community members trained to provide health care information or mailings on breast cancer screenings. *Reuters* reported that 33% of the participants were Black, 42% were American Indian and 25% were white. The study showed that after 12 to 14 months, 42.5% of women who received in-person visits also underwent mammogram testing, compared to 27.3% who only received information in the mail. The in-person visits affected all racial groups. According to Paskett, health care advisors can navigate, “through the health care system, social networking, and social support, and serve as a link between community members and the medical care system through outreach, education (and) information dissemination.”