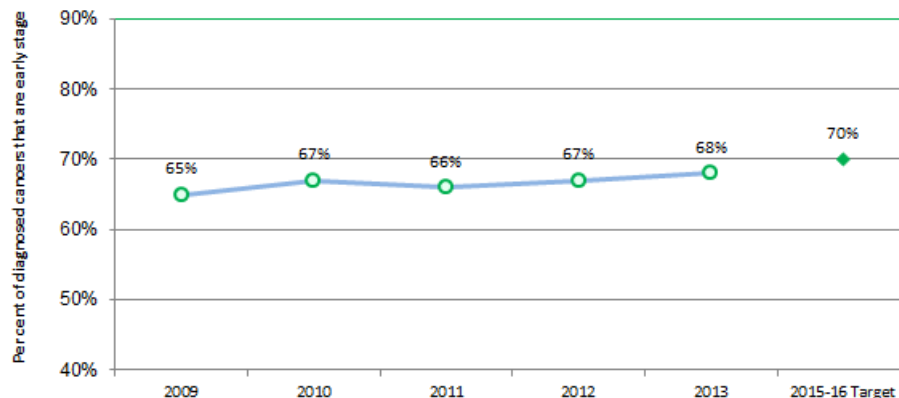Alberta Health Services

Early Detection of Cancer

Measure Definition

The percentage of patients with breast, cervical and colorectal cancers who were diagnosed at early stages 1 or 2. This measure covers the three most common cancers; breast, cervical and colorectal. It represents the percentage of invasive cancer cases diagnosed in the stages (Stage I, and II (and stage 0 for breast cancer)) in relation to all patients diagnosed with these diseases in all stages.
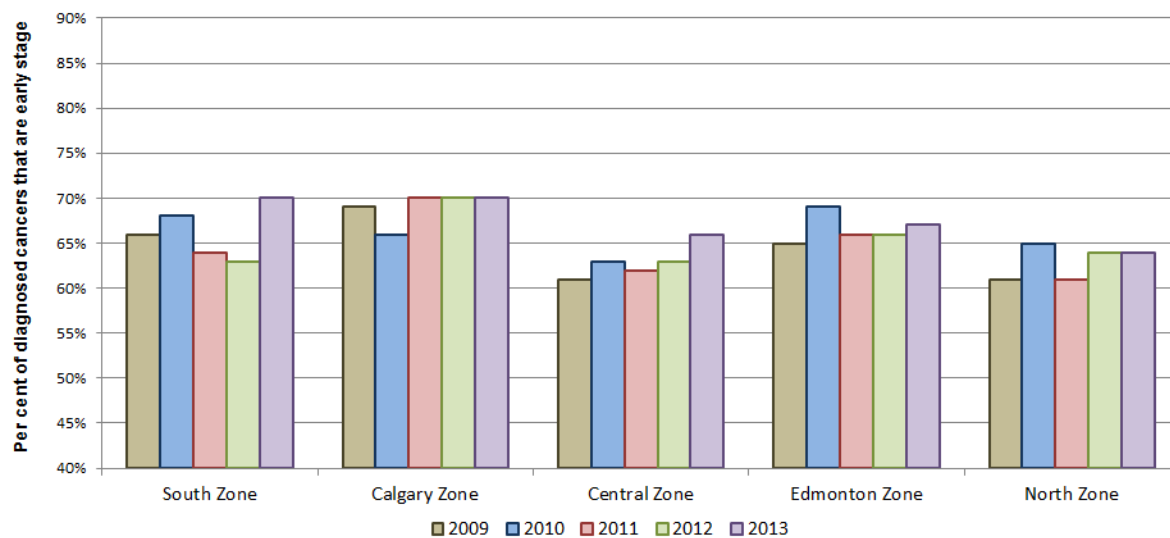
Understanding this Measure

Patients whose cancers are captured at early stages have higher survival rates than those who were diagnosed at later stages. Provincial cancer screening programs aim to diagnose cancers at the earliest stage possible in the target population. This measure is developed to reflect both screening effectiveness and efficiency of clinical diagnosis pathways.

Early Detection of Cancer - Annual

Early Detection of Cancer - By Zone

Early Detection of Cancer – Actions

Provincial/ Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)	• The volume of Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) for Q1 is 72,871 (Q4 2014/15 was 63,195).	**IN SUMMARY** Data is published annually. Early detection of cancer through regular screening following clinical practice guidelines can identify unsuspected cancers at a stage when early intervention can positively affect the outcome for colorectal, breast, cervical or prostate cancers.
South	• Monitor and evaluate Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) testing implementation, targeting clinics with low FIT test return rates through Central Intake clinic, and following up as needed with primary physician offices. • Develop and implement clear follow-up processes for patients with positive FIT results. • Implementation of Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program (ACRCSP) guidelines for positive FIT results. • Continue to promote Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening in collaboration with Primary Care Networks.	
Calgary	• The Colon Cancer Screening Center has significantly reduced routine referrals for colonoscopy, decreasing wait times as a direct result of the uptake in FIT testing. • The Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program offers a mobile breast screening mammography program at a fixed site at the Holy Cross in Calgary. • A "Man Van" for PSA (Prostate-specific antigen) testing is completed at the Prostate Cancer Center/ Southern Alberta Institute of Urology.	**DID YOU KNOW** *The **Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)** is an easy-to-use colorectal cancer screening tool that can help save lives by detecting more cases earlier. It is used as a screening test for average-risk Albertans between the ages of 50–74. Implementing FIT helps optimize colonoscopy services across Alberta and ensures timely access for those who have a positive FIT test or have a family history of the disease.*
Central	• Increase compliance with quality reporting for colon cancer screening colonoscopies. • Collaboration with physicians to utilize new data collection form to meet ACRSP reporting requirements along with reconciliation of pathology results.	
Edmonton	• Communication was sent to primary care providers promoting colorectal cancer screening.	
North	• Implement Year 2 of the Enhanced Access to Cancer Screening (EAC) Pilot Project. • Work underway to reach 50 rural and remote communities through the delivery of 17 integrated cancer screening clinics • Work underway to utilize newly developed EACS Planning Kit to support project sustainability and to assist in planning and delivery of cancer screening clinics. • Ongoing communications to promote and enhance awareness of cancer risks and screening in Q1. This included mobile announcement letters informing communities of upcoming screen test visits were delivered to four communities.	

Early Detection of Cancer – Zone Details

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Early Detection of Cancer	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Trend *	2015-16 Target
Provincial	65%	67%	66%	67%	68%	↑	70%
South Zone	66%	68%	64%	63%	70%	↑	70%
Calgary Zone	69%	66%	70%	70%	70%	→	71%
Central Zone	61%	63%	62%	63%	66%	↑	69%
Edmonton Zone	65%	69%	66%	66%	67%	↑	70%
North Zone	61%	65%	61%	64%	64%	→	69%

*Trend: ↑ Improvement   → Stability   ↓ Area requires additional focus