

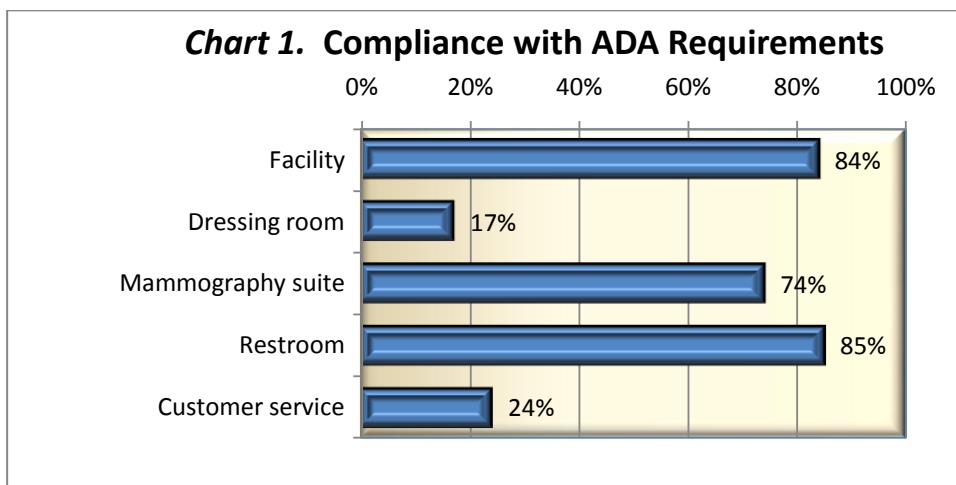
MAMMOGRAPHY FACILITY SURVEY FOR DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY

Virginia Health Promotion for People with Disabilities (HPPD) Project Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University

For more information contact the HPPD Project at 804-828-8587

Women with disabilities have an increased risk of dying from breast cancer.ⁱ They are less likely to receive routine mammograms and the necessary follow up care when diagnosed with cancer.ⁱⁱ To assess the extent to which mammography sites are accessible to women with disabilities, the Virginia Health Promotion for People with Disabilities (HPPD) Project surveyed mammography sites each year from 2007 to 2009. Access to the facility, dressing room, mammography suite, and restrooms, as well as customer service, was voluntarily evaluated by mammography facilities throughout Virginia. A follow-up survey examined training and technical assistance needs.

As of May 2009, there were 194 certified mammography sites. Among all the certified mammography sites in Virginia, there were 168 facilities that responded to the survey at least one of the three study years. In total, only 13 mammography sites (7%) met all the requirements for facility, dressing room, restroom, and mammogram suite access, and customer service compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Chart 1 demonstrates that more mammography facilities tended to be in compliance for facility, mammography suite and restroom ADA requirements than in compliance for dressing room and customer service requirements.



Specific areas in which mammography facilities are doing well and at least 95 percent of the facilities are in compliance include:

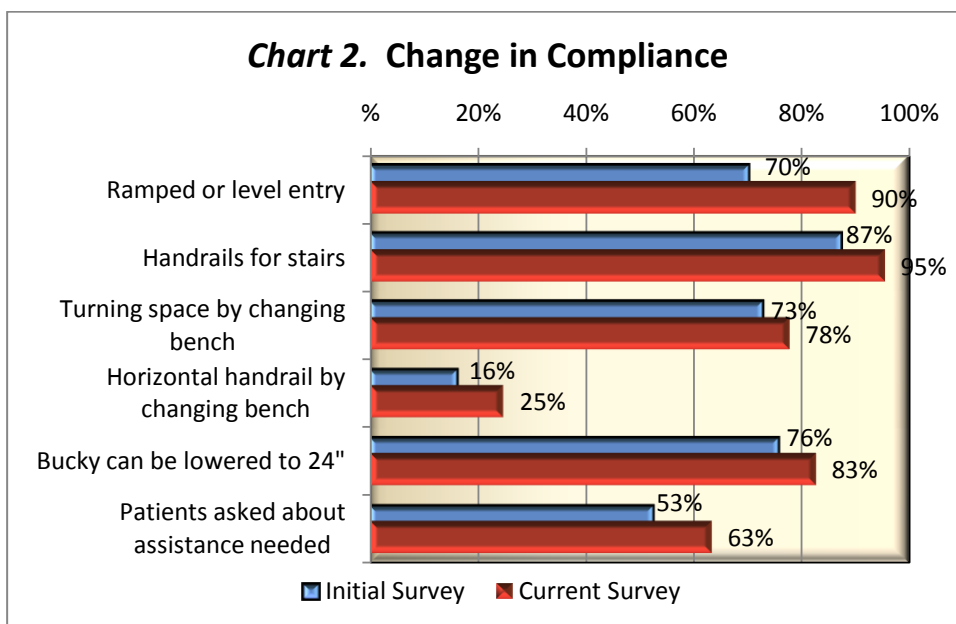
- Ramped or level entry
- Accessible exterior door
- Accessible pathway from waiting room to mammography area
- Accessible pathway in mammography suite
- Turning space in mammography suite

- Accessible restroom doorway
- Restroom accessible toilet stall
- Restroom accessible single room
- Accessible restroom pathway

Areas that need improvement include:

- Handrails for stairs
- Horizontal handrail by changing bench
- Turning space by changing bench
- Patients asked during appointment scheduling for assistance needed
- Sign language interpreters provided, if needed
- Instructions to staff on using the Relay for the Deaf and hard of hearing
- Training to staff at mammography facilities on disability awareness, communicating with people with disabilities, designing mammography facilities, and Americans with Disabilities Act provisions.

Comparing initial and most current surveys revealed improvements in 19 of the 23 criteria. Chart 2 highlights the areas that showed the greatest improvement. The extent facilities were in compliance varied throughout the five regions in the state.



ⁱ CDC. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, Atlanta Georgia: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, 2008.

ⁱⁱ McCarthy, E., Ngo, L., Roetzheim, R., et al. 2006. Disparities in breast cancer treatment and survival in women with disabilities. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 134: 637-645.