Implementation of Strategies Across Sectors to Reduce Breast Cancer Mortality in Greater Houston

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Background

Launched in 2023, the Texas Health Equity Alliance for Breast Cancer (THEAL) is a multi-sector collaborative focused on reducing breast cancer disparities in greater Houston guided by the principles of cross-sector collaboration, system strengthening, and aligned multilateral impact.

THEAL's goal: decrease the breast cancer mortality gap by 15% and reduce significant barriers faced by Black women across the cancer care continuum over the next decade in Harris County.

Together three aims will work in concert to accomplish this goal:

- Aim 1: Align to develop a shared approach and plan of action through a collaborative framework
- Aim 2: Explore and promote the use of shared data to drive decision-making
- Aim 3: Identify and address the root causes of breast cancer mortality gaps through evidence-based actions

The initiative structure includes a backbone team of seven organizations and a Steering Committee of 20+ organizations who foster collaboration, support implementation, evaluation, and sustainability.

The objective of this poster is to describe the process and early outcomes resulting from Aim 3 implementation.

Methods

A competitive and collaborative Request for Collaborators (RFC) process was facilitated by the backbone team and resulted in eight collaborating organizations funded to implement seven evidence-based interventions (EBIs) across community and clinical settings.

Collaborating organizations represent the following sectors:

- Academic (n=1)
- Community-based non-profit organization (n=2)
- Faith-based organization (n=1)
- Health care (n=3)
- National advocacy organization (n=1)

Funded projects included patient navigation, screening promotion, and financial assistance to mitigate structural barriers to care (Figure 1).

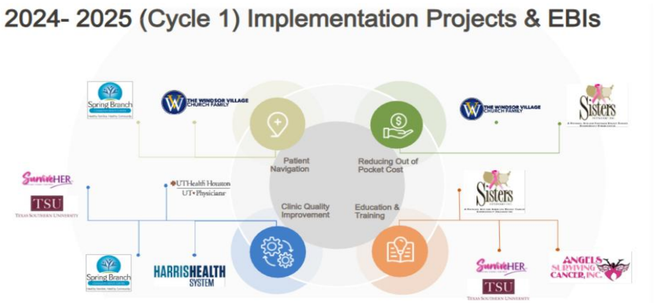


Figure 1. 2024 – 2025 THEAL Implementation Projects & Evidence-based Interventions

The first year of program implementation was September 2024 – August 2025.

- Collaborating organizations submitted quarterly progress reports capturing quantitative and qualitative data on service reach, engagement, and outcomes.
- The Steering Committee and collaborating organizations developed an agreed upon set of shared measures to track over the year.
- Data were aggregated and analyzed quarterly to assess progress.

Results

All funded collaborating organizations submitted on-time and comprehensive reports during the implementation period (September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025).

2,996 people have been reached by all THEAL activities

THEAL Shared Measures	
716	Women screened for breast cancer
214	Clients received financial assistance
154	Staff participated in training or certification
1,991	People participated in 38 awareness events
1,020	Clients received patient navigation services



Conclusions

Results and lessons learned were shared in structured partner meetings and used to refine implementation strategies, identify system-level barriers, and inform sustainability planning for subsequent funding cycles.

Collectively, these activities demonstrate early success in aligning community and clinical efforts to improve access, engagement, and empowerment among Black women across greater Houston.

Acknowledgements

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