Identifying breast cancer screening service gaps: A combined geographic and demographic approach Alissa Berzen, MPH, Rana Bayakly, MPH, Chrissy McNamara, MSPH

Background

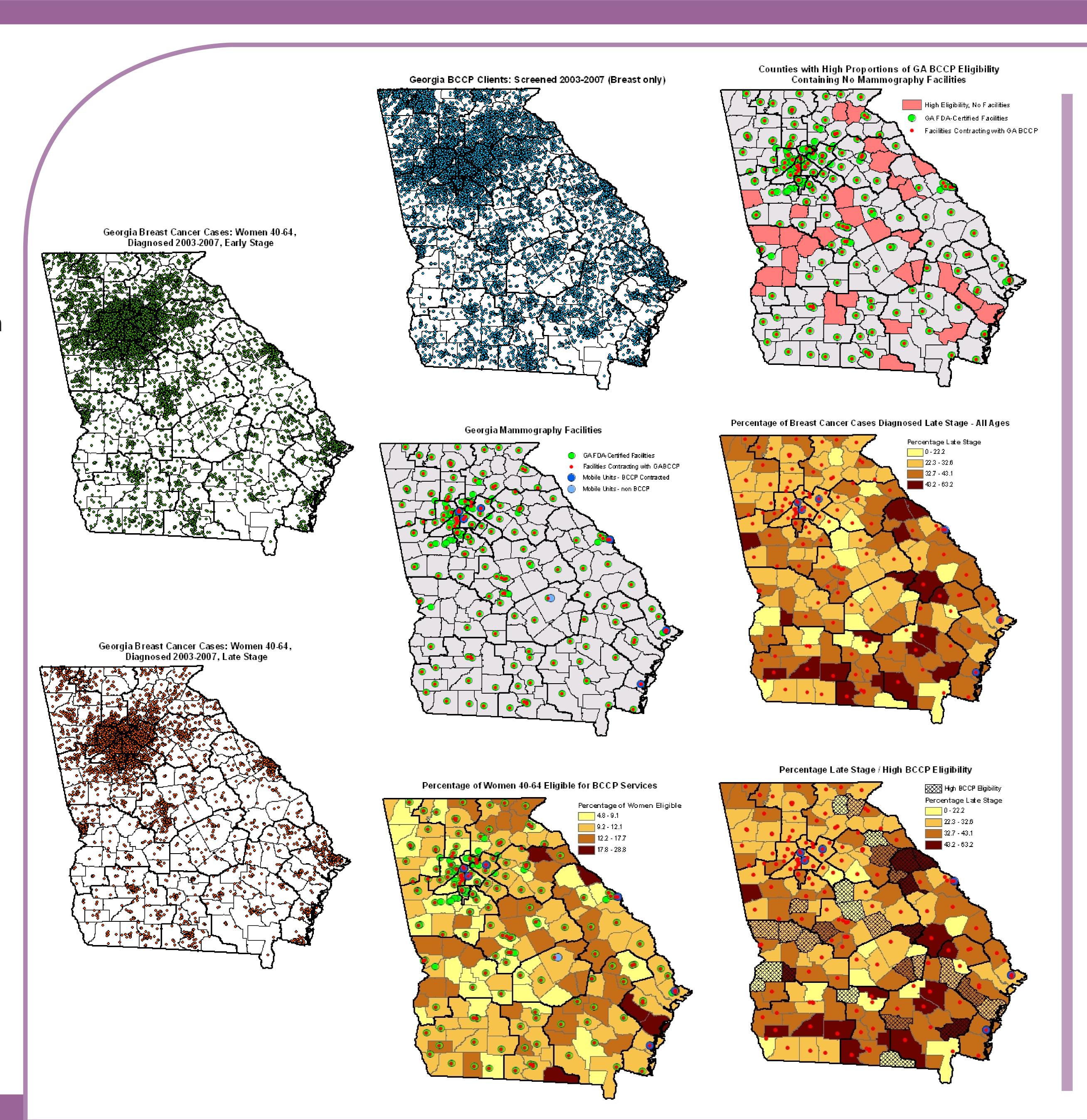
- In breast cancer, early detection is key to favorable survival outcomes
- Proximity to a mammography facility can be driving factor in likelihood of screening
- The Georgia Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) provides breast cancer screening to uninsured women aged 40-64 below 200% poverty

Methods

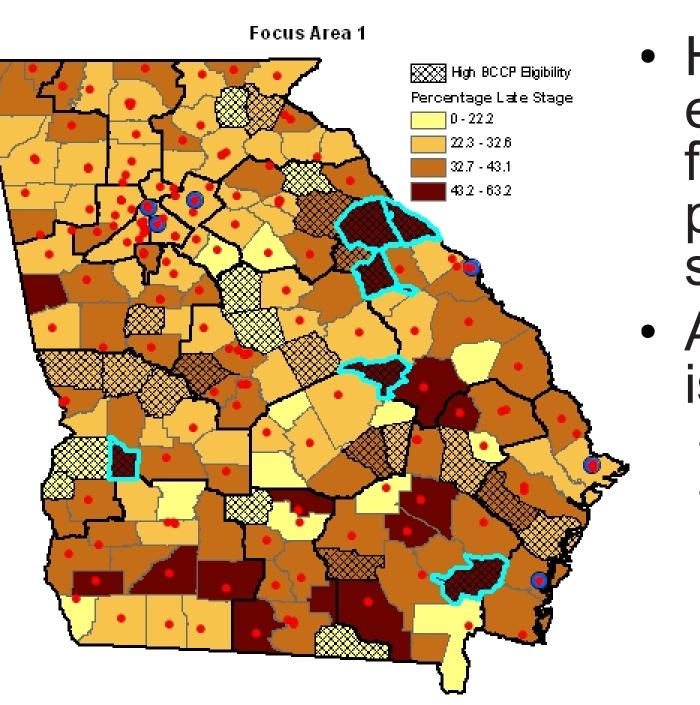
- Data collected from GA
 Comprehensive Cancer Registry for all breast cancer diagnoses between 2003-2007
- All cases were geocoded based on patient address
- Cases were subset based on age at diagnosis and stage of cancer

Results

- Among women 40-64 there was no difference in overall percentage of late stage diagnoses in low access/ high need counties, as a group, from that of remaining counties
- Areas with low access to facilities do not seem to correspond to areas with high late stage incidence
- Among counties with high BCCP eligibility
- Early stage breast cancer: 67%
- Late stage breast cancer: 30%
- Unknown/unstaged: 3%
- Among counties with low BCCP eligibility
 - Early stage breast cancer: 67%
 - Late stage breast cancer: 30%
- Unknown/unstaged: 3%
- Only 6 counties classified as low access/high need had proportions of late stage diagnoses in highest quartile
- 6 more counties had proportions in 2nd highest quartile
- Conversely, 10 counties containing mammography facilities and low BCCP eligibility had high proportions of late stage breast cancer

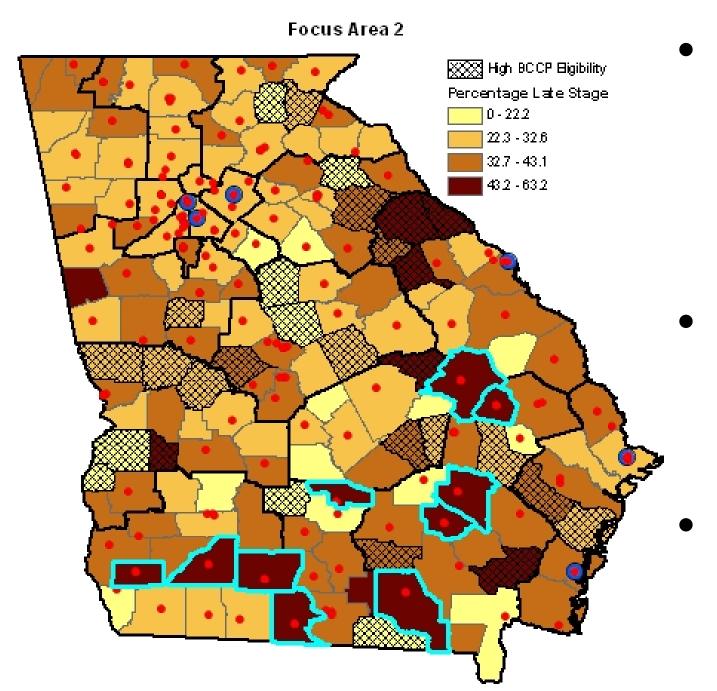


Focus Area 1



- High BCCP eligibility, no facilities, high percentage late
- Access/availability issues?
- Transportation
 BCCP
 jurisdiction/capacity if
 nearest facility is
 contracted with
 another district

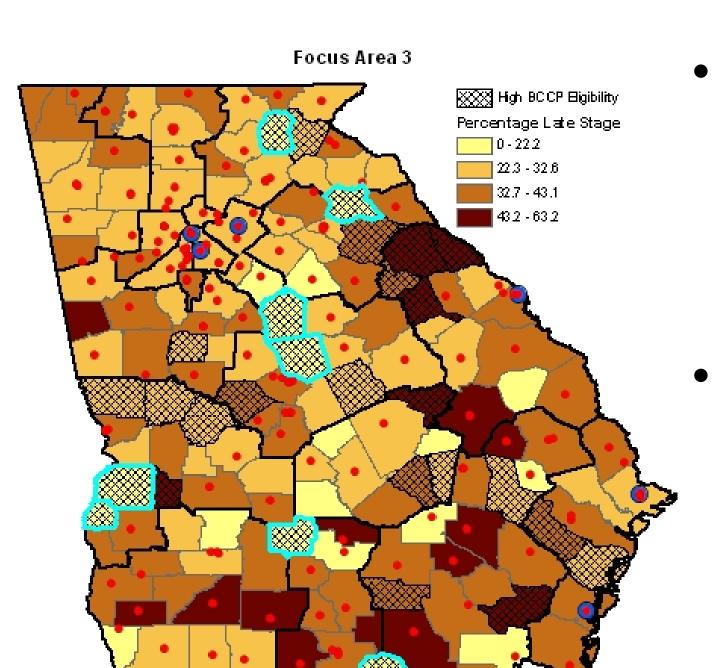
Focus Area 2



- Low BCCP eligibility, has facilities, high percentage late stage
- Education/ awareness issues?
- Facilities available, but not being used?
- Access?

 Rural counties transportation

Focus Area 3



- High BCCP eligibility, no facilities, low percentage late stage
- Population characteristics?
- Crossing state lines for services?
- Successful screening practices for early detection

Areas of Focus

- High BCCP eligibility, no facilities, high percentage late stage (6 counties)
 - Access/availability issues?
- Low BCCP eligibility, has facilities, high percentage late stage (10 counties)
 - Education/awareness issues?
 - Access issues if poor county
- High BCCP eligibility, no facilities, low percentage late stage (8 counties)
 - Population characteristics?

Implications

- Use of U.S. Census county demographic profile data regarding sex, age, poverty, and educational attainment can explain some of these findings
- Data from the GA Comprehensive Cancer Registry may assist in directing services to areas and populations with true need

Contact Information

Alissa Berzen, MPH
Breast and Cervical
Cancer Epidemiologist
akberzen@dhr.state.ga.us

