In order to identify the greatest breast health needs in its communities, Susan G. Komen Great Plains works with local health care professionals and community leaders to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment every four years called the Community Profile. This assessment identifies areas with higher late-stage diagnosis and death rates from breast cancer as well as gaps in breast health services. Information collected influences Komen Great Plains outreach and funding priorities to ensure the greatest impact across Nebraska and the Dakotas.

### 2015 Community Profile Priority Areas

Priority areas face a higher late-stage diagnosis rate and death rate from breast cancer.

Some issues facing these priority areas include:
- Lack of education about breast health
- Affordability of screening and treatment
- Accessibility to services

Priority areas include:

**North Dakota**
- Rolette County
- Stark County
- Stutsman County
- Walsh County
- Ward County
- Williams County

**South Dakota**
- Beadle County
- Lawrence & Pennington Counties
- Oglala Lakota, Jackson & Bennett Counties

**Nebraska**
- Custer, Dawson & Lincoln Counties
- Douglas County
- Saunders County

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**Our Bold Goal:** Reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths in the U.S. by 50% by 2026.
South Dakota has the second-highest female breast cancer incidence rate in the U.S. Every week in South Dakota, 14 people are diagnosed with breast cancer and two people die of the disease.

**Lawrence and Pennington Counties**

Poor education on the importance of breast health may be an impediment of early detection for women living here. Breast health services are concentrated in Rapid City resulting in restricted access to care for rural women.

- **Pennington County**
  - 12% of late-stage diagnosis in South Dakota

- **Lawrence County**
  - 39% higher than national average breast cancer death rates

**Beadle County**

Women living in Beadle County, including a large population of refugees and the state’s largest population of Hispanic/Latinas, struggle with language barriers and financial constraints which may prohibit early detection.

- 25% Beadle County residents who are uninsured
- 8% higher than national average breast cancer death rates

**Jackson, Bennett, and Oglala Lakota Counties**

Lack of health insurance coverage and poverty puts individuals living on American Indian reservations at a tremendous disadvantage to accessing education and screening.

- 25% Jackson County residents who are uninsured
- 93% Women in Oglala County who are American Indian

**Mission Action Plan**

Komen Great Plains will collaborate with local organizations to focus on the priority areas by carrying out these action steps:

- **Accessibility**
  - Improve timely access to quality, affordable screening and treatment services for women over 40, particularly for rural, underserved women

- **Addressing Breast Health Disparities**
  - Ensure quality care for all women by collaborating with local partners to increase access to and seamless progression through screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up

- **Education**
  - Continue to empower women and their communities to learn about breast health and support services available

For more information or to download the full report, visit komengreatplains.org