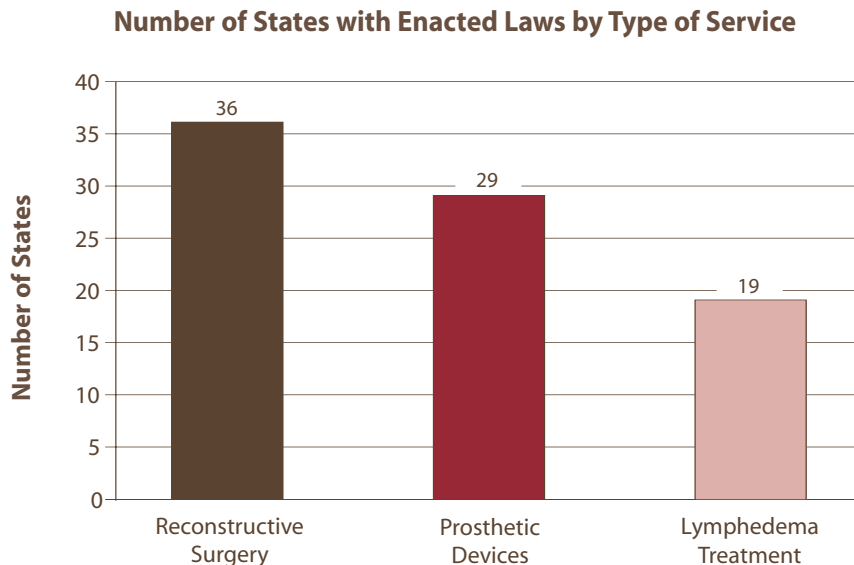


Legislative Data Byte

Coverage by Private Health Insurers for Breast Cancer Treatment Services (as of June 30, 2004)



Since 1989, the National Cancer Institute's State Cancer Legislative Database (SCLD) Program has monitored the enactment of laws addressing insurance coverage for breast cancer treatment services in all 50 states and in the **District of Columbia** (collectively, states). The bar chart above illustrates the number of states with laws addressing coverage by private health insurers¹ for post-mastectomy services, supplies, or treatment including: (1) reconstructive surgery, (2) prosthetic devices, and (3) lymphedema treatment.

Thirty-six states have enacted legislation addressing coverage for post-mastectomy services. Of those states, 34 require private insurers to provide coverage for reconstructive surgery after mastectomy, including surgery to establish breast symmetry. **Kentucky** law mandates that insurers offer such coverage and **Michigan** law mandates that insurers offer or include such coverage.

Twenty-seven states require insurers to provide coverage for prosthetic devices after surgery; in **Kentucky**, insurers

must offer such coverage and in **Michigan**, insurers must offer or include such coverage. Twenty-seven states require insurers to provide coverage for both reconstruction and prostheses. **Kentucky** law requires insurers to offer coverage for both reconstruction and prostheses; **Michigan's** law requires insurers to offer or include such coverage.

Insurers in 18 states must provide coverage for lymphedema treatment. Insurers in **Kentucky** must offer such coverage. Eighteen states require insurers to provide coverage for reconstructive surgery, prostheses, and lymphedema treatment; in **Kentucky**, insurers are required to offer such coverage.

Fifteen states have not enacted legislation requiring insurers to offer or provide coverage for any of these post-mastectomy procedures.

¹ Private health insurers include: (1) private individual or group insurers, and (2) private health maintenance or other managed care organizations.

The SCLD contains information synthesized from state-level laws. The SCLD does not contain state-level regulations; measures implemented by counties, cities, or other localities; case law; Attorneys General opinions; or data addressing the implementation of state laws—all of which may vary significantly from the laws reported herein.