



# Cancer Patient Navigation Program Puerto Rico



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## Background

Our project addresses significant gaps or challenges related to patient navigation in our oncology program impacting all types of cancer.

The grant has advanced our high-quality cancer care to our population by achieving the following objectives:

- ✓ To centralize our patient navigation program services.
- ✓ To improve care planning for our breast, colorectal, lung/bronchus, and pediatric cancer patients.
- ✓ To build a robust and sustainable oncology patient navigation program.

In summary, our patient navigation project has further advance high-quality cancer care and facilitate navigating through the health care system for the predominantly Hispanic population in Puerto Rico. Also, more patients will receive timely treatment and have their social and financial needs appropriately addressed.

## Project Design/Methods

The navigation program is based on the NCCCP Navigation Matrix to create a strong and sustainable program that facilitates the access to the health system of cancer patients in Puerto Rico. The program utilized the fifteen metrics of the NCCCP Navigation Matrix.

### Metrics Highlights:

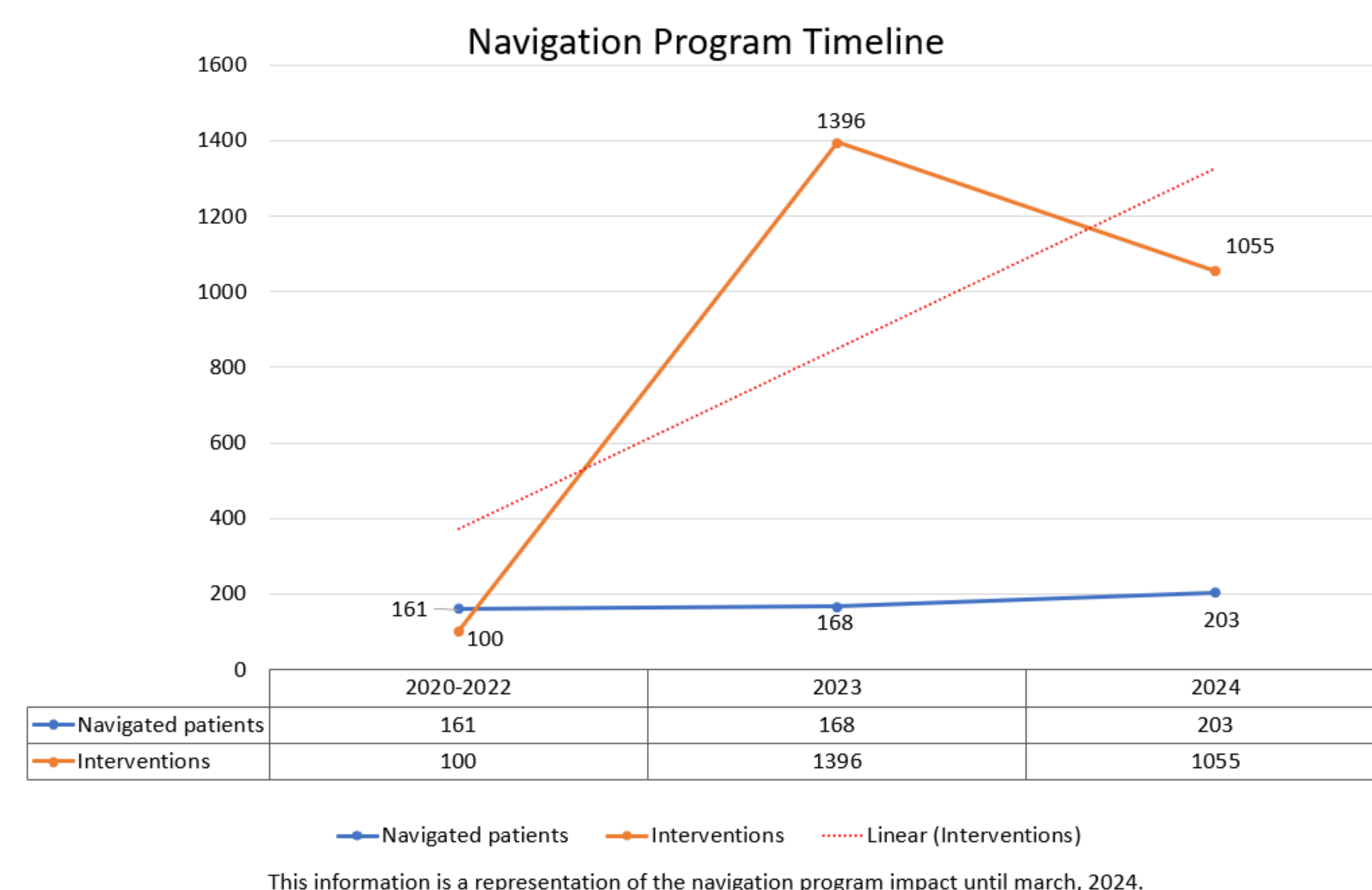
**Community Partnership** (activities, iFOB, Advisory Group, Collaborative meetings, Caguas Municipality)

**Navigation Continuum** (2022-2024 New Patients **371** and **2451** interventions)

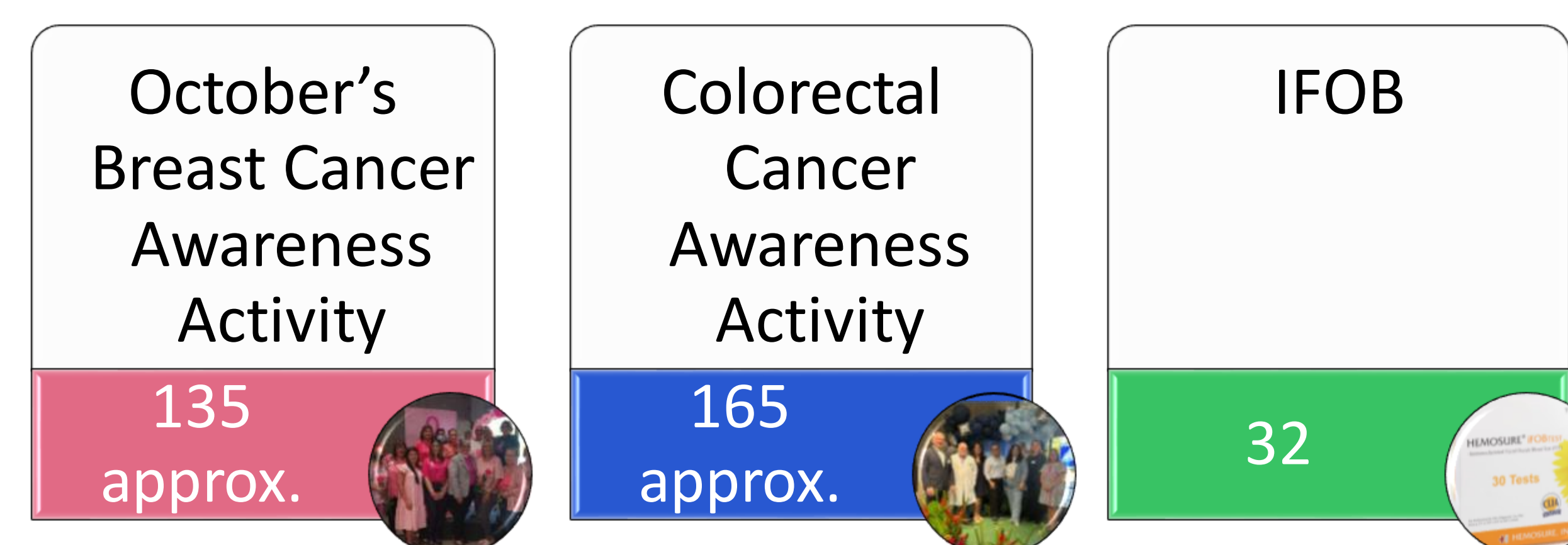
**Disparities** : access to care

**Barriers to care:** transportation, fuel and food insecurity.

## Interim Results



### Activities of the Navigation Program



### Case Study



## Innovation

- ✓ This is the first and only navigation program in Puerto Rico.
- ✓ The navigators have developed activities of impact to cancer survivors and the general community. Such as, October's Breast Cancer Awareness, March's Colorectal Cancer Awareness with orientation and hand out fecal occult blood tests as a screening method, and presentations to different types of populations about the navigation program.
- ✓ Focal group session to explore ways to improve diagnosis management.
- ✓ Presentation of the Breast Navigator on the Hematology and Oncology Nurse Association of Puerto Rico.
- ✓ Since July 2023 the navigation program navigates all types cancer.
- ✓ Food vouchers, fuel gift cards and parking vouchers.

## Implications for Sustainable Practice

## Challenges



Hospital's change and transition of owner

Disposal of grant funds

Delay of the new owners on reaching agreements with health plan insurance

Patient Navigation Program Range

Access to the hospital's electronic medical records

This project is making a significant high impact in the prevention and education. However, as with any project or program, the challenges to sustainability are a continuous and teamwork effort is needed. For the Pavia Caguas Hospital, this is no exception. Here are some of ours:

1. Funding Stability
2. Organization context and capacity
3. Workflow integration

- ✓ **Community outreach bringing navigation service to underserved communities.**
- ✓ **Community partnership with external medical services.**

## Next Steps

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