

Removal of Breast Cancer Website and Related Webpages from within HHS's Office on Women's Health Website

Access Assessment Report
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[See WIP's Report Production Protocol for details of our review process](#)

Classification of Web content alterations and changes in access to Web resources:

Classification	Changed in this report?
1. Altering or removing text and non-text content	Yes
2. Altering or removing links	Yes
3. Moving an entire webpage or collection of webpages or establishing redirects	Yes
4. Altering or removing an entire pertinent section of a webpage or collection of webpages	Yes
5. Removing an entire webpage or document	Yes
6. Overhauling or removing an entire website	Yes
7. Altering or removing search engines and open data platforms	
8. Altering, removing, or deleting datasets	

The Sunlight Foundation's Web Integrity Project does not intend to assess any government agency's intentions in presenting the changes to webpages or other Web content that appear in this report.

The format of this report and the methodology used to generate it are based on those developed during 2017 by the [Environmental Data & Governance Initiative's Website Monitoring Team](#), which our co-founders helped lead

Removal of Breast Cancer Website and Related Webpages from within HHS's Office on Women's Health Website

Overview

The “Breast Cancer” website and related pages were removed from within the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office on Women’s Health (OWH) website. While content about mammogram breast cancer screening remains, informational pages and factsheets about the disease, including symptoms, treatment, risk factors, and public no- or low-cost cancer screening programs, have been entirely removed and are no longer found elsewhere on the OWH site. Among the material removed is information about provisions of the Affordable Care Act that require coverage of no-cost breast cancer screenings for certain women, as well as links to a free cancer screening program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The office did not proactively announce or explain the removals.

These removals are part of wider changes to the OWH website that include the removal of resources related to lesbian and bisexual health, minority women’s health, and other topics. See the “[Overview of HHS’s Office on Women’s Health Website Overhaul](#)” report, also documented in the [Appendix](#) below.

Background

Agency details: OWH was established in 1991 within HHS’s Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health. According to the [OWH website](#), the office “coordinates women's health efforts across HHS and addresses critical women's health issues by informing and advancing policies, educating health care professionals and consumers, and supporting model programs.”

Communications about changes: The office has not proactively communicated about or explained the changes described within this report.

Known archives: A public Web archive for the [www.womenshealth.gov](#) domain, collected by the Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive, can be found at https://wayback.archive-it.org/4438/*/https://www.womenshealth.gov/. The materials can be found by navigating from the HHS archive at the URL <https://archive.hhs.gov>. The OWH website does not link to these archives and does not explain how to navigate to these archives. These archives are also incomplete and do not contain website snapshots pertaining to the dates of many of the changes detailed within this report.

Description of Most Notable Changes

1. The “Breast Cancer” website and related pages were removed between June and December 2017 from within OWH’s website. The [main page](#) at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/> ([Webpage 1](#)) links to six corresponding informational pages at the “/breast-cancer” subdomain, all of which were removed ([Table 1](#)).

- a. All seven pages on the OWH “Breast Cancer” website currently redirect to the [OWH home page](#), which contains no information related to breast cancer.
 - b. The main page on the “Breast Cancer” website served as a repository of links to pages on the “Breast Cancer” website, as well as other breast cancer information on the OWH site and other government sites. The page previously linked to informational pages such as “[Breast cancer symptoms](#)”, “[Screening and diagnosis...](#)”, “[Breast cancer risk factors and prevention](#)”, and “[Government in action](#)”, all of which have been removed ([Table 1](#)). Among other resources, the page linked to factsheets on “[Early-stage breast cancer treatment](#)” and [general breast cancer information](#), both of which have been removed ([Table 2](#)).
 - c. The main page contained a link to a [Spanish language version](#) of the “Breast Cancer” main page, which was also removed.
 - d. A link that previously led to the “Breast Cancer” page from OWH’s “[A-Z Health Topics](#)” page has been removed (see [Appendix](#)).
2. An informational page on “[Mammograms](#),” separate from the “Breast Cancer” website is still live on the OWH site, containing information about common screening procedures ([Webpage 3](#)).
 - a. Although the “[Screening and diagnosis...](#)” page ([Webpage 2](#)) that was part of the “Breast Cancer” website now redirects to the “Mammograms” page, a significant amount of content has been removed and is not included on the “Mammograms” page or elsewhere on the OWH website.
 - b. Links to the removed breast cancer informational pages were removed from the “Mammograms” page.
 3. Information about laws and government programs pertaining to breast cancer related health insurance coverage and related pages have been removed from OWH’s website:
 - a. The removed “[Screening and diagnosis](#)” page prominently featured information about provisions of the Affordable Care Act that require insurers to cover mammograms for certain women at no cost ([Webpage 2](#)).
 - b. The “Screening and diagnosis...” page linked to a PDF “[Screening Tests for Women](#)”, which has also been removed, and stated that “Insurance companies are required to cover many [preventive services for women](#) at no cost to you because of the [Affordable Care Act](#).” Some of the PDF’s content can be found on the live “[Steps for better health by age](#)” pages, but no breast cancer information is currently presented for any age group on those pages ([Webpage 2](#)).
 - c. The removed “[Government In Action](#)” page contained information on the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, a CDC program that offers screening to “low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women” ([Webpage 4](#)).
 4. The changes described above are part of a broader pattern of changes to the OWH website, detailed more extensively in the “[Overview of HHS’s Office of Women’s Health Website Overhaul](#)” report and documented in the [Appendix](#) below.

Table of Contents

Report Section	Webpage Title	URL	Page Status
Webpage 1	Breast Cancer (main page)	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/	Removed
Webpage 2	Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/screening-diagnosis-mammogram-breast-exam/index.html	Removed
Webpage 3	Mammograms	https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/mammograms	Live, but altered
Webpage 4	Government In Action	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html	Removed
Appendix*	Reproduced portions of “ Overview of HHS’s Office of Women’s Health Website Overhaul: Removal of Resources and Corresponding Link Alterations on the A-Z Health Topics Page ”	https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/	Live, but altered

***Note:** This portion of the “Overview ...” report has been reproduced in the Appendix of this report for convenience and to direct the reader to the content that is related to this report. The chart on the cover of this report does not, however, correspond to findings within the Appendix.

Detailed Description of Changes in Access

Note: Throughout the entire report, links to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine’s (IAWM) versions of corresponding pages are provided for reference. IAWM displays time in GMT.

Webpage 1: Breast Cancer (main page)

- URL: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/>
 - URL redirects to: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/>
- Page was removed between [June 27, 2017](#) and [December 11, 2017](#).
Note: The large date range is due to gaps in archiving by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.
- Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive: previous version available from [April 6, 2017](#) (The Depository is not linked from the OWH website.)
- This page is the main page of the OWH’s “Breast Cancer” website. [Webpage 2](#) and [Webpage 4](#) below are representative two examples of the seven total pages within the “Breast Cancer” website.

Webpage 1 Details:

Information about removed content on the “Breast Cancer” main page

1. The main page of OWH’s “Breast Cancer” website was removed between [June 27, 2017](#) and [December 11, 2017](#).
2. The main page URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/> currently redirects to the OWH homepage ([March 26, 2018](#)).
3. While the main page hosted little informational content itself, it contained the following sections with links to corresponding informational resources:
 - a. “Topics” (See [Table 1](#) below for assessment of access to pages corresponding to links listed in this section).
 - b. “Features” (**Note:** Access to pages and content corresponding to links listed in this section are not evaluated in this report).
 - c. “Fact sheets” (See [Table 2](#) below for assessment of access to pages corresponding to links listed in this section).
4. The page contained a link to a Spanish language version of the “Breast Cancer” main page, which was removed between [February 6, 2017](#) and [April 27, 2017](#). (**Note:** The change in access to the removed Spanish language page and to its content is not evaluated in this report)

Table 1: Links listed under the “Topics” section of the “Breast Cancer” main page and corresponding page status (list includes the main page, as well). The following table details the link URLs in the “Topics” section of on the [June 27, 2017](#) version of the “Breast Cancer” main page, the status of their corresponding URLs and webpages, and the date range in which any currently dead page was removed. It also notes if content that was on the removed pages can be found on other pages on the OWH website.

Index	Link Text	Link URL	Does URL currently redirect?	Page status	Is content elsewhere on OWH site? ¹	Page removal date range
1	Breast Cancer (main page)	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	6/27/17 - 12/11/17
2	What is breast cancer?	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/what-is-breast-cancer/index.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 3/9/18
3	Breast cancer symptoms	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/breast-cancer-symptoms/index.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 3/26/18
4	Breast cancer risk factors and prevention	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/risk-factors-prevention/index.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 3/9/18
5	Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/screening-diagnosis-mammogram-breast-exam/index.html	Yes (Mammograms page ²)	Removed	No ²	6/27/17 - 3/9/18
6	Breast cancer treatment	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/breast-cancer-treatment/index.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 3/9/18
7	Government in action on breast cancer	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 3/9/18

Additional Notes for Table 1:

¹ These results were determined with a combination of Google’s site-specific search function and OWH’s internal website search, using keywords and unique phrases.

² The “[Mammograms](#)” page was previously linked from the “[Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests](#)” page. See [Webpage 2](#) and [Webpage 3](#) below for more details about what was removed from these pages.

Table 2: Links listed on the “Fact sheets” section of the “Breast Cancer” main page and their corresponding page status. The following table details the link URLs in the “Fact sheets” section of the [June 27, 2017](#) version of the “Breast Cancer” main page, the status of their corresponding URLs and webpages, and the date range in which any currently dead page was removed. It also notes if content that was on the removed pages can be found on other pages on the OWH website.

Index	Link Text	Link URL	Does URL currently redirect?	Page status	Is content elsewhere on OWH site? ¹	Page removal date range
8	Breast cancer	https://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/breast-cancer.html	No (404 error)	Removed	No	10/10/17 - 2/12/18

9	Breast reconstruction after mastectomy	https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-reconstruction-after-mastectomy	No	Live	N/A	N/A (live on 3/26/18)
10	Caregiver stress	https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/fact-sheets/caregiver-stress.pdf	No (404 error)	Removed	Partially ²	6/27/17 - 10/11/17
11	Depression	https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/depression	No	Live	N/A	N/A (live on 3/26/18)
12	Early-stage breast cancer treatment	https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/early-stage-breast-cancer.html	Yes (OWH home)	Removed	No	10/11/17 - 2/5/17
13	Mammogram	https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/mammograms.html	Yes (new URL path: /a-z-topics/ ³)	Live	N/A	N/A (live on 3/26/18)
14	Stress and your health	https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/stress-your-health.html	Yes (new URL path: /a-z-topics/ ⁴)	Live	N/A	N/A (live on 3/26/18)

Additional Notes for Table 2:

¹ These results were determined with a combination of Google’s site-specific search function and OWH’s internal website search, using keywords and unique phrases.

² A different PDF of the same title is live on the OWH website at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/documents/caregiver-fact-sheet.pdf>, but has significantly less content than the PDF listed in the table. Compare the PDF listed above ([September 28, 2017](#)) to the PDF that is currently live ([March 27, 2018](#)).

³ URL currently redirects to <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/mammograms> ([January 1, 2018](#))

⁴ URL currently redirects to <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/stress-and-your-health> ([March 28, 2018](#))

Information about access to Webpage 1 from the “A-Z Health Topics” page

Note: See Appendix below for more detailed information about changes in access to resources on the “A-Z Health Topics” page.

1. Between [November, 30 2017](#) and [December 13, 2017](#), the “Breast cancer” link, with the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/> and which led to the “Breast Cancer” main page, was removed from OWH’s “A-Z Health Topics” page (see [Appendix](#)).
2. Searching “breast cancer” on the OWH website search does not yield any results with link URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/> in the first five pages of results (as of March 26, 2018).

Screenshot 1.1: A representative portion of [June 27, 2017](#) version of the “Breast Cancer” main page from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Women's Health.gov website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, A-Z Health Topics, Printables and Shareables, Blog, About Us, and Contact Us. Below this is a main heading "Breast Cancer" with a sub-link for "This information in Spanish (en español)".

The main content area begins with a paragraph: "Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women during their lives, and many of us know someone — a mother, sister, friend — who has had it. It is the second-leading cancer killer of women in the United States, next to lung cancer. Thanks to screening, breast cancer often can be found early, when the chance of successful treatment is best. In fact, many women are even cured of the disease."

Below the paragraph is a "Topics" section with a blue header. It contains several columns of links:

- What is breast cancer?**
 - Breast basics
 - Breast cancer
- Breast cancer risk factors and prevention**
 - Factors that affect a woman's risk of breast cancer
 - Ways to lower your breast cancer risk
 - Breast cancer in men
 - More...
- Breast cancer treatment**
 - Staging
 - Types of treatment
- Breast cancer symptoms**
 - A lump in or near your breast or under your arm
 - Thick or firm tissue in or near your breast or under your arm
 - A change in the size or shape of your breast
 - More...
- Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests**
 - Breast cancer screening
 - Diagnosing breast cancer
- Government in action on breast cancer**
 - National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

To the right of the text is a photograph of four women in athletic wear holding a banner that says "Breast Cancer Awareness Month". Below the photo is a "News release" link. Further down is a "Stay connected with us" section with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and RSS. Below that is a "Subscribe to Breast Cancer email updates" form with an input field for an email address and a "Subscribe" button.

Note: this screenshot represents only a portion of the content on this page.

Webpage 2: Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests

- URL:
 - <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/screening-diagnosis-mammogram-breast-exam/index.html>
 - URL redirects to: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/mammograms> ([Webpage 3](#))
- Page was removed between [June 28, 2017](#) and [March 9, 2018](#).

Note: The large date range is due to the lack of archived versions of this page on the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine between the specified dates.
- Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive: previous version available from [April 6, 2017](#) (The Depository is not linked from the OWH website.)
- This is a representative example of one out of the seven removed pages from within the OWH's "Breast Cancer" website that provides information about disease screening and diagnosis. It linked from the "Topics" section on the main page ([Table 1](#), [Webpage 1](#)).

Webpage 2 Details:

Information about removed content on the "Screening and diagnosis" page

1. The "Screening and diagnosis" page was removed between [June 28, 2017](#) and [March 9, 2018](#).
2. The page URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/screening-diagnosis-mammogram-breast-exam/index.html> redirects to the OWH "Mammograms" page ([March 9, 2018](#); [Webpage 3](#)).
3. The page contained the following sections (*Note: access to content linked from these sections has not been evaluated comprehensively*):
 - a. "Breast cancer screening"
 - i. This section contained information about various breast cancer screening methods, including "Mammogram" and "Clinical breast exam (CBE)."
 - ii. The link "[womenshealth.gov screening charts](#)" previously led to a PDF titled "Screening Tests for Women", which has now been removed. The removed PDF detailed guidelines "about important screening tests for women" and mentioned that "Insurance companies are required to cover many [preventive services for women](#) at no cost to you because of the [Affordable Care Act](#)." Some of the "screening chart" content can be found on the live "[Steps for better health by age](#)" pages, but no breast cancer information is currently presented for any age group on those pages.
 - iii. A text box labelled "Related information" prominently featured a notice about "no-cost" breast cancer screenings, which insurers are required to provide certain women under provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The text box stated in part: "Some women have not gotten regular mammograms in the past because of cost and lack of insurance. But

insurance companies are now required to [cover mammograms](#) every 1 to 2 years for women over 40 at no cost to the patient because of the [Affordable Care Act](#).”

- b. “Diagnosing breast cancer”
 - i. This section contained information on various diagnostic methods: “diagnostic mammogram”, “ultrasound exam”, “magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)”, and “breast biopsy”.
- c. “More information on Screening and Diagnosis”
 - i. This section contained links to: relevant OWH fact sheets; other federal websites with information on federally subsidized free and low-cost cancer screenings; websites for nonprofit organizations that provide support for patients diagnosed with breast cancer; and other informational resources.

Screenshot 2.1: A representative portion of [June 28, 2017](#) version of the “Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests” page from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

The screenshot shows the homepage of Womenshealth.gov. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, A-Z Health Topics, Printables and Shareables, Blog, About Us, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Breast Cancer" and features a sub-header "Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests". Below this, there is a list of topics including "Breast cancer screening" and "Diagnosing breast cancer". A sidebar on the left contains a "Breast Cancer" menu with options like "What is breast cancer?", "Breast cancer symptoms", and "Breast cancer risk factors and prevention". There is also a "Subscribe to Breast Cancer email updates" form. A "Related information" section at the bottom provides additional resources like "Mammograms fact sheet" and "Screening tests and vaccines". An image of a woman at a mammography machine is visible on the right side of the page.

Note: this screenshot represents only a portion of the content on this page.

Webpage 3: Mammograms

- URL: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/mammograms>
- Changes occurred between [October 11, 2017](#) and [December 21, 2017](#).
- Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive: version available from [April 6, 20](#). (The Depository is not linked from the OWH website.)
- This is a representative example of a page that was separate from the OWH's "Breast Cancer" website, but linked from a page within the "Breast Cancer" website ([Webpage 2](#)). Additionally, the "Screening and diagnosis..." page ([Webpage 2](#)) currently redirects to this page.

Webpage 3 Details:

Information about changes to content on "Mammograms" page

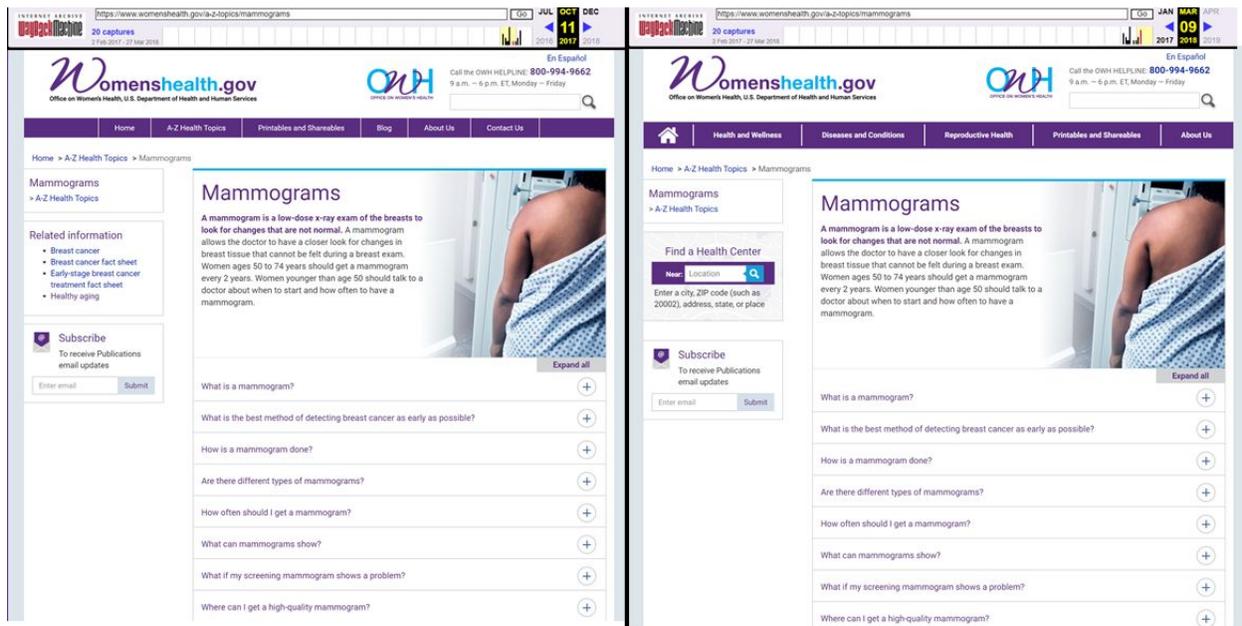
1. The "Mammograms" page, which was outside of the OWH's "Breast Cancer" website, was changed between [October 11, 2017](#) and [December 21, 2017](#). Changes include:
 - a. Removal of "Related information" section from the page's sidebar, which included links to:
 - i. [Breast cancer](#) (*Note: this is a link to the OWH's "Breast Cancer" website*)
 - ii. [Breast cancer fact sheet](#)
 - iii. [Early-stage breast cancer treatment fact sheet](#)
 - iv. [Healthy aging](#)
 - b. Changed "Office on Women's Health is grateful for the additional reviews" to "Office on Women's Health is grateful for the medical review in 2013"
 - c. Removed phrase "Content last reviewed: June 10, 2013." No "Content last reviewed" date is currently presented.
2. A page titled "Mammograms fact sheet" was previously hosted at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/mammograms.html>. The URL began redirecting to the currently live "Mammograms" page at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/mammograms> between [December 8, 2016](#) and [January 7, 2017](#). *Note: The text and links are almost entirely unchanged between these two versions, although the formatting and overall presentation has been altered. A systematic analysis evaluating the differences in content and difference in access to these pages from the rest of the website has not been performed.*
3. The page contains explanatory information answering questions like "What is a Mammogram," guidelines on when and how often women should undergo mammograms, and other information related to the subject.

Information about redirect from the "Screening and diagnosis..." page ([Webpage 2](#)) to the "Mammograms" page ([Webpage 3](#)) and comparison of pages

1. The previous URL for the "Screening and diagnosis..." page that was removed with the "Breast Cancer" website began redirecting to the "Mammograms" page between [June 28, 2017](#) and [March 9, 2018](#).

2. In contrast to the “Screening and diagnosis...” page ([Webpage 2](#)), this page does not specify or mention:
 - a. Links to general breast cancer information.
 - b. The fact that insurers are required to cover “no-cost” screenings for certain women under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Screenshot 3.1: A representative portion comparing the [October 11, 2017](#) and the [March 9, 2018](#) versions of the “Mammograms” page from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. Compare the “[Mammograms](#)” page to the “[Screening and diagnosis...](#)” page ([Webpage 2](#)) to determine which content is still available and which was removed.



Note: this screenshot represents only a portion of the content on this page.

Webpage 4: Government in action on breast cancer

- URL: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html>
 - URL redirects to: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/>
- Page was removed between [October 10, 2017](#) and [March 9, 2018](#).
Note: The large date range is due to the lack of archived versions of this page on the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine between the specified dates.
- Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive: previous version available from [April 6, 2017](#) (The Depository is not linked from the OWH website.)
- This is a representative example of one out of the seven removed pages from within the OWH's "Breast Cancer" website that provides information about relevant government programs. It linked from the "Topics" section on the main page ([Table 1](#), [Webpage 1](#)).

Webpage 4 Details:

Information about removed content on the "Government in action on breast cancer" page

1. The "Government in action on breast cancer" page was removed between [October 10, 2017](#) and [March 9, 2018](#).
2. The page URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html> redirects to the OWH homepage ([March 9, 2018](#)).
3. The page contained the following sections:
 - a. "National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program" (NBCCEDP)
 - i. This section contained information on federal programs that provide free or low-cost cancer screening, including clinical breast exams and mammograms. Funded by the CDC, NBCCEDP offers screening to "low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women."
 - ii. This section also notes that all 50 states and the District of Columbia have approved an "option to offer women in the NBCCEDP access to treatment through Medicaid."
 - b. "National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service"
 - i. This section contained information about federally funded informational hotlines; one that provides personalized answers to cancer related questions, and another that provides information about smoking cessation programs.

Screenshot 4.1: A representative portion of the [October 10, 2017](https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html) “Government in action on breast cancer” page from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

INTERNET ARCHIVE
Wayback Machine

https://www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/government-in-action/index.html

49 captures
28 Dec 2012 – 9 Mar 2018

JUN OCT MAR
10
2016 2017 2018

Call the OWH HELPLINE: 800-994-9662
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday ET

En Español

Home A-Z Health Topics Printables and Shareables Blog About Us Contact Us

Text size | Print | f t +

Breast Cancer

- What is breast cancer?
- Breast cancer symptoms
- Breast cancer risk factors and prevention
- Screening and diagnosis: Mammogram, clinical breast exam, and other tests
- Breast cancer treatment
- Government in action on breast cancer**

Breast Cancer in Spanish (en español)

Subscribe to Breast Cancer email updates.

Enter email address

Subscribe

Home > [Breast Cancer](#) > Government in action on breast cancer

Breast Cancer

Government in action on breast cancer

- National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
- National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides low-income, uninsured, and underserved women access to timely breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services.

To

The U.S. government and women's health

- Find more government actions.

improve access to screening, Congress passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990, which guided CDC in creating the NBCCEDP. Currently, the NBCCEDP funds all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories, and 12 American Indian/Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations to provide screening services for breast and cervical cancer. The program helps low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women gain access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services. These services include:

Note: this screenshot represents only a portion of the content on this page.

Appendix: Reproduced portions of “Overview of HHS’s Office of Women’s Health Website Overhaul: Removal of Resources and Corresponding Link Alterations on the A-Z Health Topics Page”

The following is a copy of [Webpage 1](#) and the [Additional Information](#) section from the “Overview...” [report](#), providing reference for the altered informational resources on the OWH’s “A-Z Health Topics” page:

Appendix Webpage 1: A-Z Health Topics

- URL: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics>
- Changes occurred between [May 12, 2017](#) and [January 12, 2018](#)
Note: The large date range is because changes occurred throughout this period, not all at once. See Tables 1 and 2 below for dates of specific changes. Some changes have occurred since January 12, 2018, but are not documented within this report.
- Federal Depository Library Program Web Archive: previous version available from [April 6, 2017](#) (The Depository is not linked from the OWH website.)

Section 1: Link changes, removals, and additions on the “A-Z Health Topics” page, and corresponding page status

The tables below detail select links and alterations to links, as well as the corresponding page status for each link, on the OWH’s “A-Z Health Topics” page. The corresponding pages for each link are classified as “Live” or “Page removed.” If the URL redirects to a different page, it is classified as “Redirects to A-Z Health Topics,” “Redirects to OWH main page,” “Redirects to a related page,” or “Redirects to page with same content.” These distinctions demonstrate the varying ways that redirects have been used to alter access to information — all have been done without providing notice of the redirect or explanation of why it has been set up.

Table 1: Removed links from the “A-Z Health Topics” page and corresponding page status. The following table details the links removed from the OWH’s “A-Z Health Topics” page between [May 12, 2017](#) and [December 13, 2017](#), along with the associated status of the page corresponding to each link URL. The link text and link URLs included reflect those that were on the “A-Z Health Topics” page on or before May 12, 2017. For the most part, the link text is listed alphabetically as it appeared on the “A-Z Health Topics” page, with the exception of links with the same link URL, which are listed next to each other.

Index	Info about links removed from “A-Z Health Topics” page				Info about pages and content corresponding to removed link URLs*			
	Link Text	Link URL	Is link text still listed?	Link removal date range	Does URL currently redirect?	Page status	Is content elsewhere on OWH site?	Page removal date range
1	Bisexual and lesbian health	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet	No	09/26/17-10/10/17	Redirects to “A-Z Health	Page removed	Yes , but not linked from any other	09/19/17-10/13/17

		et/lesbian-bisexual-health.html ¹			Topics		pages ¹	
2	Lesbian and bisexual health	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/lesbian-bisexual-health.html ¹	No	09/26/17-10/10/17	Redirects to "A-Z Health Topics"	Page removed	Yes , but not linked from any other pages ¹	09/19/17 - 10/13/17
3	Breast cancer	www.womenshealth.gov/breast-cancer/	No	11/30/17-12/13/17	Redirects to OWH main page	Page removed	No	06/27/17 - 02/05/18
4	Early-stage breast cancer treatment (sub-bullet of "Breast cancer")	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/early-stage-breast-cancer.html	No, but identical link still present ²	11/30/17-12/13/17	Redirects to OWH main page	Page removed	No	07/28/17 - 02/05/18
5	Health Care Providers' Role in Screening and Counseling for Interpersonal and Domestic Violence (sub-bullets of both "Domestic violence/abuse" and "Violence against women")	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/screening-counseling-fact-sheet.html ³	No	09/26/17-10/10/17	Redirects to "A-Z Health Topics" ⁴	Page removed	Yes	06/27/17 - 01/17/18
6	Health data	http://52.207.219.3/qhdo/index.html	No	10/10/17-10/16/17	No ⁴	Page removed	New data portal not evaluated ⁵	06/21/17 - No after version
7	Quick Health Data Online	http://52.207.219.3/qhdo/index.html	Yes, but unlinked	10/10/17-10/16/17	No ⁴	Page removed	New data portal not evaluated ⁵	06/21/17 - No after version
8	Healthy aging	www.womenshealth.gov/aging/index.html	No	05/12/17-05/28/17	Redirects to "A-Z Health Topics"	Page removed	No	05/12/17 - 06/27/17
9	Men's health	www.womenshealth.gov/mens-health/index.html	No	05/12/17-05/28/17	Redirects to related page	Page removed	No	05/12/17-11/16/17
10	Screening tests for women	www.womenshealth.gov/screening-tests-and-vaccines/index.html ⁶	No	05/12/17-05/28/17	Redirects to related page	Page removed	Partially, on page that link URL redirects to ⁶	05/12/17-06/27/17

***Important note:** Some of the link URLs on the "A-Z Health Topics" page at the "womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/" subdomain listed above began redirecting to "womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/" subdomain URLs, which correspond to new pages that contain the same or very similar content. In these cases, the "Info about pages and content corresponding to removed link URLs" column in the tables below refers to the most recent pages that the listed link URL corresponds to.

These redirects and the date range when they occurred are specified in the “Additional Notes for Table 1” section below. See the [Additional Information](#) section for more details about this URL path change.

Additional Notes for Table 1:

¹ Before the link was removed, between [May 13, 2017](#) and [June 27, 2017](#), the link URL began redirecting to a page with the same information and with the following URL:

<https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/lesbian-and-bisexual-health>. A PDF with very similar content to the page, but which is not linked from any other OWH page, is currently [live](#) on the website, making it inaccessible through navigation.

² An identical link that was also present on the page has not been removed and is documented in [Table 3](#).

³ Before the link was removed, between [May 12, 2017](#) and [June 27, 2017](#), the link URL began redirecting to a page with the same information and with the following URL:

<https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/screening-and-counseling>

⁴ Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine does not store this webpage or redirect information for the webpage

⁵ The “[Health Information Gateway](#)” has not been cross-referenced with the previous “Quick Health Data Online” to check for matching or related content.

⁶ The “Screening tests for women” link led to a page titled “Screening Tests and Vaccines”, which contained a link to the “[Screening tests for women](#)” page at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/screening-tests-and-vaccines/screening-tests-for-women/index.html>. Both pages are no longer live. The redirect leads to pages with suggested tests and vaccines for women, which contains some, but not all, of the information from the removed page.

Table 2: Altered and added links on the “A-Z Health Topics” page and corresponding page status. The following table details links altered and added on the OWH’s “A-Z Health Topics” page, along with the associated status of the page corresponding to each link URL. Changes were made between [May 12, 2017](#) and [January 12, 2018](#). In cases of altered link text, the corresponding link URLs included reflect those that were on the “A-Z Health Topics” page prior to the link changes. Any link text that has remained unchanged is not listed, but as described in the “Important note” above, in some cases the corresponding link URL has changed or now redirects from the “womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/” subdomain to the “womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/” subdomain — see the [Additional Information](#) section for further explanation. (**Note:** For ease, Table 2 has been formatted to match the format of Table 1 above and corresponding pages have been evaluated in the same way):

Index	Info about links altered or added on “A-Z Health Topics” page				Info about pages and content corresponding to removed link URLs*			
	Link Text	Link URL	Link text altered or added?	Link change/addition date range	Does URL currently redirect?	Page status	Is content elsewhere on OWH site?	Page change date range
11	Anemia Changed to: Iron-deficiency anemia	www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/anemia	Altered	05/28/17-06/27/17	Redirects to page with same content ¹	Live	Yes (some alterations) ¹	05/12/17 - 06/13/17

12	Asthma	www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/asthma	Added	01/07/18-01/12/18	No	Live	--	No before version - 02/05/18
13	Chronic fatigue syndrome <i>Changed to:</i> Chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS)	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/chronic-fatigue-syndrome.html	Altered	09/26/17-10/10/17	Redirects to page with same content ²	Live	Yes	06/02/17-12/17/17
14	Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS)	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/chronic-fatigue-syndrome.html	Added	09/26/17-10/10/17	Redirects to page with same content ²	Live	Yes	06/02/17-12/17/17
15	Health Information Gateway	https://gateway.womenshealth.gov/	Added	10/10/17-10/16/17	No	Live	--	No before version - 02/10/18
16	Pelvic organ prolapse	www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/pelvic-organ-prolapse	Added	11/30/17-12/13/17	No	Live	--	No before version - 12/23/17

***Important note:** Some of the link URLs on the “A-Z Health Topics” page at the “womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/” subdomain listed above began redirecting to “womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/” subdomain URLs, which correspond to new pages that contain the same or very similar content. In these cases, the “Info about pages and content corresponding to removed link URLs” column in the tables below refers to the most recent pages that the listed link URL corresponds to. These redirects and the date range when they occurred are specified in the “Additional Notes for Table 2” section below. See the [Additional Information](#) section for more details about this URL path change.

Additional Notes for Table 2:

¹ The content on the “Anemia” page is not identical to the content now on the “Iron-deficiency anemia” page. Some information has been added or removed to reflect the shifted focus on iron-deficiency anemia. For instance, information about other forms of anemia, such as vitamin deficiency anemia and anemias caused by underlying diseases or inherited blood disorders, has been removed.

² Between [February 05, 2018](#) and [February 08, 2018](#), the link URL on the “A-Z Health Topics” page was changed to <https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/chronic-fatigue-syndrome>. The link URL listed in the table now redirects to this new URL.

Section 2: Assessment of page status corresponding to links on the “A-Z Health Topics” page as of February 2018

With the exception of the links noted in Table 3, below, all links found on the “A-Z Health Topics” page on [February 8, 2018](#) lead to live pages related to the content of the link text.

Table 3: Links on the “A-Z Health Topics” page corresponding to removed pages, including redirects as of February 2018. The following table details the links on OWH’s “A-Z

Health Topics” page, found on [February 8, 2018](#), that correspond to removed pages. (**Note:** For ease, Table 3 has been formatted to match the format of Table 1 above and corresponding pages have been evaluated in the same way):

Index	Info about links on “A-Z Health Topics” page				Info about removed pages and content corresponding to listed link URLs			
	Link Text	Link URL	Is link text still listed on A-Z page?	Link change date range	Does URL currently redirect?	Page status	Is content elsewhere on OWH site?	Page removal date range
17	Early-stage breast cancer treatment	www.womenshealth.gov/cancer/breast-cancer/early-stage-breast-cancer	Yes	02/05/18 - 02/08/18 ¹	No, the URL gives a 404 error	Page removed	No	07/28/17 - 02/05/18
18	Screening tests and vaccines	www.womenshealth.gov/nwhw/by-age Previously: www.womenshealth.gov/screening-tests-and-vaccines/index.html	Yes	02/05/18 - 02/08/18	No, but previous link URL redirects to current URL	Live, but page for previous URL removed	Partially ²	05/12/17 - 06/27/17

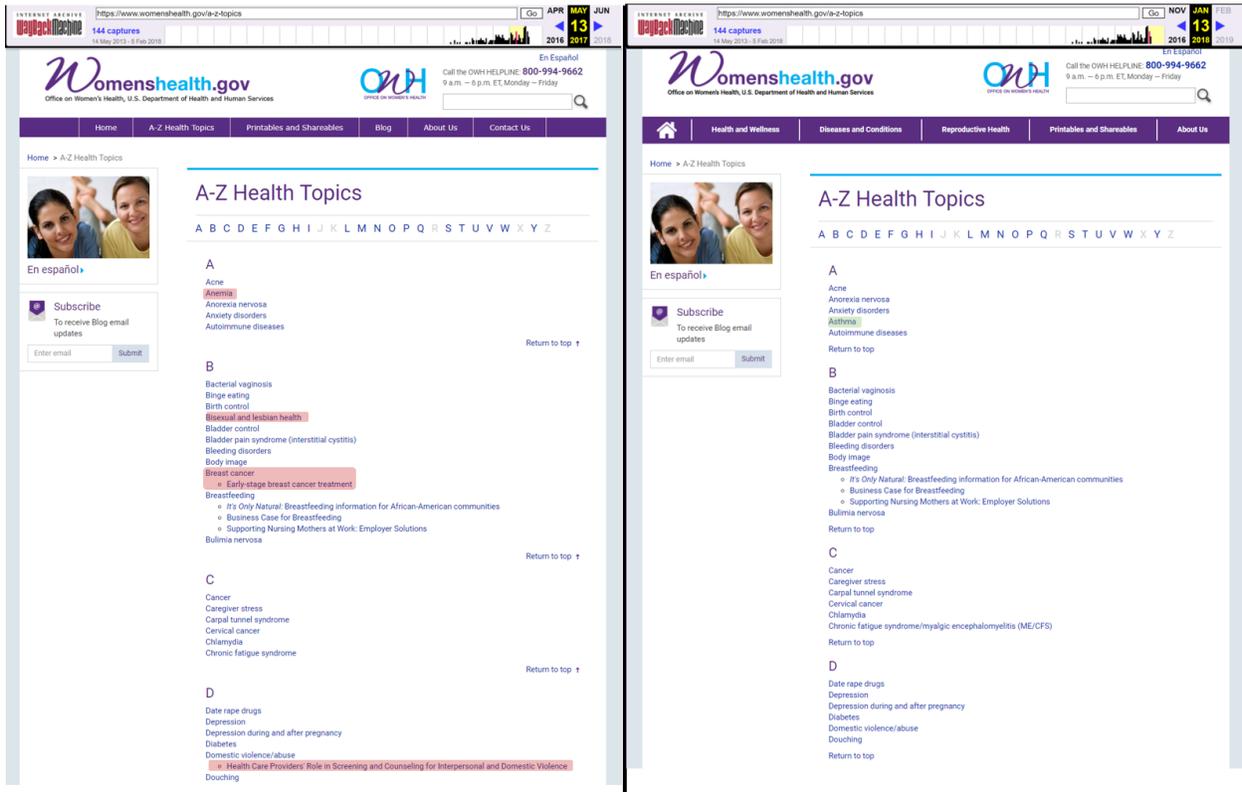
Additional Notes for Table 3:

¹ The previous link URL for this link text was the same as the link URL listed in [Table 1](#) (Index 4), which was removed as a sub-bullet of “Cancer”:

www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/early-stage-breast-cancer.html

² The removed page was a repository of links to pages on topics related to screening tests and vaccines. Some of these pages, or pages with the same content, are still live, such as those for [pap smears](#) and [osteoporosis](#). Others are no longer live, such as the “[Lesbian and bisexual health](#)” and “[The environment and women’s health](#)” pages, though content from some of these pages may be live elsewhere on the OWH website. The current link URL leads to a page with suggested tests and vaccines for women, which contains some, but not all, of the information from the removed page.

Screenshot 1: A side-by-side comparison of the [May 12, 2017](#) version and the [January 12, 2018](#) version of the “A-Z Health Topics” page from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine (*Note: IAWM records versions in GMT.*) Sections A-D are presented below as a representative example of the page’s contents, and sections beyond “D” are not displayed. Red highlighting indicates removed links and green highlighting indicates added links.



Note: For legibility, this screenshot represents only a portion of the content on this page, and does not show all of the links that have been removed since May 12, 2017. The linked dates listed in the tables above—which show the windows of time in which each link was removed, altered, or added—can be used to see navigate different versions, in full, of this page.

Additional Information: Reorganization, addition, and removal of fact sheet and other resource links on the OWH website during the move from the “ePublications” page to the “Fact sheets” page

This section is devoted to comparing the OWH website’s previous and current repository of fact sheet and other resource links. The repository was moved from the “ePublications” page to the “Fact sheets” page:

- Previously, the “ePublications” page was at the URL <https://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/index.html> (Removed between [April 26, 2017](#) and [May 13, 2017](#)).
- Currently, the “Fact sheets” page is at the URL <https://www.womenshealth.gov/printables-and-shareables/resource/fact-sheets> (Live since at least [April 27, 2017](#)).

The information below is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of the changes made to the repository or access to resources linked from the repository, but is rather intended to provide context for changes to some of links described in [Webpage 1](#). Specific information about fact sheets and other resources that have been removed from the OWH website will be detailed in future reports about those specific parts of the website.

Information about the “ePublications” page

1. The “[ePublications](#)” page was a repository of informational fact sheets about women’s health topics organized by 22 broad health categories.
2. Each broad health category section listed links that led to pages with informational text about the corresponding health topic. Some links appeared under multiple categories. The URLs for these pages, which were referred to as “fact sheets” corresponded to the “womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/” subdomain. Each fact sheet page had a link to a PDF containing the same or similar content to the informational text on the page.
3. There were also links on the page, found by clicking on drop-down sections within each health category, with URLs that led to PDFs. The URLs corresponded to the “womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/” subdomain. Some of the corresponding PDFs were factsheets, while others provided informational charts. For some, but not all of these resources, there were links corresponding to both an English and Spanish language version of the PDF. These PDFs are no longer live at the previous URLs, however a comprehensive analysis has not been conducted to determine if the content can be found elsewhere on the OWH website.

Information about the “Fact sheets” page

1. The “[Fact sheets](#)” page links from the OWH website’s “Printables and shareables” menu item, and is the current repository of informational fact sheets about women’s health

topics organized by 14 broad health categories. The repository was first stored on the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine on [April 27, 2017](#).

2. Under each broad health category section, there are links that correspond to PDFs with informational text about the health topics. The URLs for these pages correspond to the "womenshealth.gov/files/documents/" subdomain.
3. On [April 27, 2017](#), there were no links to Spanish language PDFs. Since then, the number of fact sheet links has increased and each fact sheet now has a corresponding link to both an English and a Spanish language PDF.

Information about move from the "ePublications" page to the "Fact sheets" page

1. Between [April 26, 2017](#) and [May 13, 2017](#), the "ePublications" URL, <http://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/index.html>, began redirecting to the "Printables and Shareables" URL, <https://www.womenshealth.gov/printables-and-shareables>, and the "ePublications" page was removed from the OWH website. The "Printables and Shareables" page leads to the "Fact sheets" page via the "Browse by resource" link or icon.
2. Some health categories that were on the "ePublications" page have been removed, such as "[Healthy aging](#)" and "[Sleep disorders](#)." Some categories have remained the same, such as "Pregnancy" and "Reproductive Health." Other health categories have been added to "Fact sheets" that were not previously on "ePublications," such as "Breastfeeding" and "HIV and AIDS" (see Screenshot 2).
3. Some resources listed in the repositories have remained the same, although some have been moved to different health categories on the "Fact sheets" page. For example, "[Bacterial vaginosis](#)" ([April 26, 2017](#) version) has moved from "Reproductive health" to "Sexual health" section. Other resources have been removed from the repository, such as the "[Date Rape Drugs Fact Sheet](#)," whose URL now redirects to a related page, and the "[Lesbian and bisexual health fact sheet](#)" (see "[Removal of Webpage and Corresponding Links Pertaining to Lesbian and Bisexual Health from HHS's Office of Women's Health Website](#)" report).
4. For some of the health topics that correspond to link URLs listed on the "ePublications" page, but removed from the "Fact sheets" page, there are different pages that are still live with the same or similar content. For example, the "[Depression During and After Pregnancy](#)" page was previously listed under the "Pregnancy" section, but a page with the same content can now be found on the "A-Z Health Topics" page.
5. For health topic fact sheets that are still associated with live pages, the corresponding previous "womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/" subdomain URLs now redirect to new pages with the same or similar content corresponding to "womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/" subdomain URLs. (See [Table 1](#) and "Additional Notes for Table 1" above for examples of redirects.)
6. Pages corresponding to "womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/" subdomain URLs, linked from the drop-down sections on the "ePublications" page, appear to have been removed. The existence of similar or identical content elsewhere on the OWH website has not been evaluated.

Screenshot 2: A side-by-side comparison of the [April 26, 2017](#) version of the “ePublications” page and the [February 11, 2018](#) version of the “Fact sheets” page, both from the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. (*Note: IAWM records versions in GMT.*)

