

Breast Cancer Action: Stop Breast Cancer Before It Starts!

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Breast Cancer

- A leading Women's health issue
- Most common cancer after skin cancer
- Nearly 1 in 3 cancers diagnosed in women
- 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in women

Public Health Crisis

Each Year:

- Nearly a quarter million women diagnosed
- Approximately 40,000 women die
- Another 60,000 non-invasive (DCIS)

- Approx. 2.6 million women alive today have been treated for breast cancer

Unequal Burden of Disease

- Highest incidence among white women
- 28% of Alaskan & Native American women's cancers
- Black women are 40% more likely to die
- Latina women are 20% more likely to die
- WOC also experience greater financial decline
- Can't explain these differences due to screening

Canary in the Coal Mine?



Are you aware?



Main messages re: breast cancer

**“Eat healthy.
Maintain a
healthy weight.
Exercise.”**

**“Early
detection is
your best
protection.”**

“Breast feed.”

Known Risk Factors : **just 30-50%**

- Family history: just 5-10%
- Early menarche/ late menopause
- Late first child birth / no children
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Alcohol consumption
- Weight gain after menopause
- Being tall
- Higher birth weight as a baby
- **AGE**

50-70% Have No Known Risk Factor



Science on Environmental Links



Chemicals in Consumer Products

- Over 80,000 chemicals in commercial use today
- Regulated by 1976 Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of chemicals grandfathered—only 200 safety tested
- EPA has few resources to test & little power
- Use of only 5 chemicals restricted under TSCA

The President's Cancer Panel



“The Panel was particularly concerned to find that the **true burden of environmentally induced cancer** has been **grossly underestimated.**”

- 2008-09 Annual Report

Lifetime risk of Breast Cancer

1964: 1 in 20



1984: 1 in 14



Today: 1 in 8



Lifelong Toll of Breast Cancer



The Precautionary Principle

Act to prevent harm before it occurs



Stop Cancer Before it Starts!

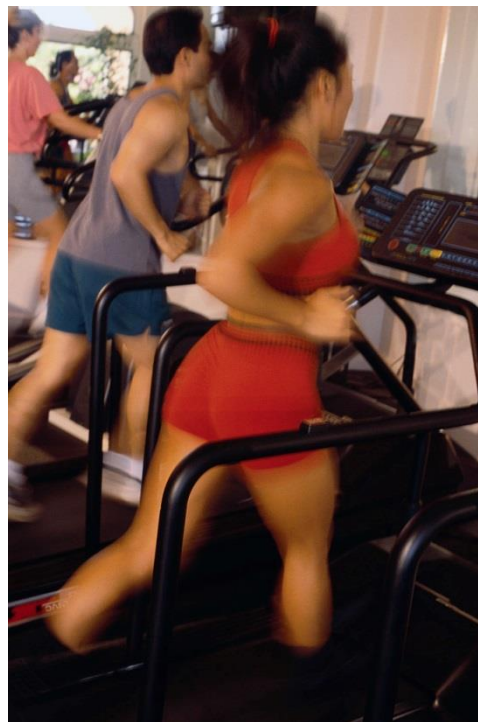
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Limits of Consumer Activism

- Focus on high-profile chemicals
- Many exposures we can't control
- Puts unfair burden on consumers
- Women may blame themselves
- Widening health gap



Yes, Live Healthy



Demand Systemic Change

- No more whack a mole
 - Need comprehensive chemical reform
- Complex disease with complex causes
 - Exposures over lifetime to many chemicals
- Refuse to be our own EPA / FDA
- Protect all of us, including the most vulnerable
- Stop blaming women for their cancers



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TIME

IS UP

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