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

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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?

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Main messages re: breast cancer

“Early detection is your best protection.”

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

“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

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Chemicals in Consumer Products

- Over 80,000 chemicals in commercial use today
- Regulated by 1976 Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)
- ¾ 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

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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

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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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