FROM PINK TO PREVENTION
time to make it happen

STOPPING BREAST CANCER BEFORE IT STARTS

Breast Cancer – Some key Facts

The stats below are from the UK, EU and Australia, reflecting *From Pink to Prevention* campaign team locations.

Breast Cancer:

Worldwide

- Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in the world.[i]

- It is by far, the most frequent cancer among women with an estimated 1.67 million new cancer cases diagnosed in 2012 (25% of all cancers).

- Breast cancer ranks as the fifth cause of death from cancer overall (522,000 deaths) and while it is the most frequent cause of cancer death in women in less developed regions (324,000 deaths, 14.3% of total), it is now the second cause of cancer death in more developed regions (198,000 deaths, 15.4%) after lung cancer.

  Reference World Health Organisation 2012
  http://globocan.iarc.fr/old/FactSheets/cancers/breast-new.asp

- For Breast Cancer, the relative survival at 5 and 10 years after diagnosis is 88% and 77%. [ii]

European Union

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in European women with an estimated incidence of 499,560 in 2012.

- From 1950 to the late 1980s, breast-cancer mortality rose everywhere in Europe, except in Norway and Sweden. [iii]

- From 1989 to 2006, mortality decreased by over 20% in 15 countries, but remained stable or even increased in central Europe. The figures range from a 45% reduction in Iceland to a 17% increase in Romania. [iii]

United Kingdom

- In the UK incidence rates have risen from 1 in 12 in 1995 to 1 in 8 in 2012, with incidence rates rising by 90% between 1971 and 2010.[iv]

- The annual cost of breast cancer in the UK is £1.5bn (encompassing economic losses, health care costs, and the burden of unpaid care)

Australia

- In Australia the annual rates of breast cancer incidence increased from 5,303 new cases in 1982 to 14,181 new cases in 2010. [v]

- The number of new breast cancer cases more than doubled between 1982 (5310) and 2008 (13567) 26 years, just over a quarter century.

- The risk of developing breast cancer before age 85 was 1 in 8 in 2010. [v]

Occupation

- Excesses of breast cancer have been found among women in working in agriculture, automotive plastics, and the food canning industries. Rates up to 5 times higher than the controls, have been found among those working in certain sectors such as automotive plastics. [vi]

- Working night shifts more than twice a week is associated with a 40% increased risk of breast cancer. [vii]

Mammography

- For every 2000 women invited for screening throughout 10 years, one will avoid dying of breast cancer and 10 healthy women, who would not have been diagnosed if there had not been screening, will be treated unnecessarily.[viii]

- For every 500 women screened for breast cancer, 1 life will be saved and 499 others will be given what could be a damaging dose of radiation.[viii]

- Over diagnosis and over treatment can't distinguish between harmless cancer that would never give symptoms and those that are dangerous.

Lifelong, low level exposure to toxins and MERCs

- There are almost 1000 chemicals which are known or suspected of interfering with our hormones, ie endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). [ix]

- 216 chemicals in regular usage have been found to be linked to breast cancer - 73 have been present in consumer products or as contaminants in food, 35 are air pollutants, and 25 have been associated with occupational exposures.[x,xi]

- Between 137 – 232 toxic chemicals have been found in the umbilical cord blood of new-borns. 132 of these are reported to cause cancer in humans/animals, 110 are toxic to brain or nervous system, 133 cause developmental and reproductive problems in mammals. [xii, xiii]

- Samples of house dust were found to contain pesticides, solvents, plastic additives and flame retardants, so house dust could be classified as hazardous waste.[xiv]

- 350 synthetic chemicals have been found in breast milk. [xv]

---

[i] http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2013/pdfs/pr223_E.pdf
[ii] http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2217620/
[iii] WHO Europe. http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/cancer/news/news/2012/2/early-detection-of-common-cancers/breast-cancer
[iv] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cancer-unit/breast-cancer-in-england/2010/sum-1.html
[v] http://canceraustralia.gov.au/es/affected-cancer/cancer-types/breast-cancer/breast-cancer-statistics
[vi] J. T. Brophy et al., "Breast Cancer Risk in Relation to Occupations with Exposure to Carcinogens and Endocrine Disruptors: A Canadian Case-Control Study," *Environmental Health* 11(87) (2012): 1-17, doi: 10.1186/1476-069X-11-87
[vii] Johnni H, & Lassen, CF. Nested case-control study of night shift work and breast cancer risk among women in the Danish military, OEM, Online First, 28 May 2012, doi 10.1136/oemed-2011-100240
[viii] http://www.cochrane.dk/research/Screening%20for%20breast%20cancer%202013%20CD001877.pdf
[ix] TEDx List of potential EDCs. http://endocrinedisruption.org/endocrine-disruption/tedx-list-of-potential-endocrine-disruptors/overview
[x] Rudel RA, Attfield KR, Schifano JN, Brody JG. Chemicals causing mammary gland tumors in animals signal new directions for epidemiology, chemicals testing, and risk assessment for breast cancer prevention. Cancer. 2007;109(12 Suppl):2635-66. Available online - http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cncr.22653/pdf
[xi] Silent Spring Institute. http://www.silentspring.org/body-burden
[xii] http://environmentaldefence.ca/blog/canadian-children-are-being-born-pre-polluted
[xiii] http://www.ewg.org/research/minority-cord-blood-report/bpa-and-other-cord-blood-pollutants
[xiv] Consuming Chemicals #2. Hazardous chemicals in house dusts as indicators of chemical exposure in the home Greenpeace. 2003
[xv] REACH – What Happened and why? 2003. *assets.panda.org/downloads/theonlyplanetguide.pdf*