

Breast Cancer in Urban Areas: Social Consideration

Research Report

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## **Introduction**

Breast cancer has impacted society and changed people's lives women in specific in many ways. In fact, Studies have shown how women that reside in urban areas are more likely to get breast cancer than women who reside in rural areas. According to Susan G. Komen, a breast cancer foundation created for the late Susan G. Komen who died of the disease. About one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Also, in 2018, 40,920 women reportedly died of breast cancer in urban areas (Susan G. Komen). If caught at an appropriate stage. The survival rate of breast cancer is 90 percent, however, African American women have the highest likelihood of having breast cancer (Susan G. Komen). Based on SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2015, it shows that white women have a 46 percent chance and African-American women have a 43 percent chance of getting breast cancer in their lifetime (Susan G. Komen). However, White women are more likely to get breast cancer when they are older but African-American women can get breast cancer at any age. The social lens focuses on the communication effects of women of different ethnicities.

## **Social Perspective: African Americans**

African American women who live in high population of the urban areas tends to have dense breast tissue. Different ethnic populations have multiple ways of treating this disease. Marion M. Lee published an article in The Oxford Academic: Journal of the National Cancer Institute. The journal helps the people understand the different types of cancer and how to treat them. It is a monthly published journal of medical research in the field of oncology. Doctors have done studies from the years 1990-1992 in San Francisco to see how four ethnic groups treat breast cancer. About 36 percent of African-Americans mostly used spiritual healing to treat

breast cancer (Lee). The spiritual healing is mostly used three to six months after they have been diagnosed with breast cancer and is most effective to women whose breast cancer have been detected at an early (Lee). In that case, a more efficient treatment would be radiation therapy because it would reduce the risk of a vital surgery and it could get rid of the cancer cells in the tissue. African-Americans have about 122 cases of breast cancer and they are mostly diagnosed at an advanced stage (Lee). They wait too long to seek the help that they need because the medical care that they have does not inform what stage of breast cancer they have. The Oncologist is a journal of the Society for Translational Oncology where oncologist Lisa A. Newman wrote a report on why African-American women are at a higher risk of dying of breast cancer. African American women do have a lower risk of getting breast cancer than white women based on their genetics and family history of breast cancer (Newman).

### **Social Perspective: Hispanic Women**

Ana C. Sanchez-Birkhead claims Hispanic women in urban areas do not get screened for breast cancer such as mammograms to see if they have any symptoms of breast cancer. As a result, Hispanic women are mostly being diagnosed with breast cancer and they are dying of the stages that they have been diagnosed with. Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing is informing why Hispanic women are getting breast cancer and their difficulties, they are published bi-monthly and it was established in 1997. When Hispanic women lack healthcare and don't seek professional help, it could lead to death or a higher risk of breast cancer. Jean Campbell and Paul Doru write for Verywell. It is a website that focuses on health, which is informed by 120 health experts and reviewed by board-certified physicians. In 2015, about 19,800 Hispanic women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States, but they have a lower chance of

getting breast cancer than non-Hispanic women. Hispanic women that were born in the U.S are mostly bilingual and it could cause barriers that affect their health care and medical care (Campbell and Doru). Madison Park is a journalist at CNN, a 24-hour cable news channel that informs society about local or international news. Park believes Hispanic women do not know that clinics offer free breast health screening because many people do not know if they are in an early stage of breast cancer or in a late stage of breast cancer.

### **Social Perspective: Asian American Women**

Ashing, Kimlin Tam, et al. believe that Asian American do not have the education about breast cancer concerns and what the symptoms are which can lead to a dangerous health concern for them in urban areas. Rowan T. Chlebowski et al. claims that out of all the different types of races, Asian women have the lowest death rate from breast cancer. They are diagnosed at a later stage, which reduces the amount of treatment they will receive to be cured (Chlebowski et al.). Jenny Park writes for The Cancer Support Community and informs the people about how cancer impacts society, which started in 1982. From the 1970s to the 1980s many Asians were immigrating to the United States, which impacted the women's health from moving place to place. Moon S. Chen works for Wiley Interscience, which informs people about medical situations and it publishes research. Chen states Asian American women have a lower rate of seeking social and behavior support from the women who have breast cancer. They do not have that much knowledge about their bodies and the benefits of getting checked if they have any sort of illness. Tracy Seipel is a journalist for Chicago Tribune. It is a daily newspaper in Chicago, Illinois founded in the year 1847. She explains that many Asian-Americans who arrived in the

United States had no family history of any sort of cancer (Seipel). Also, women have been lately getting breast cancer because of their white counterparts.

## **Recommendation**

Although many women get breast cancer, some women do not have the proper healthcare to prevent them from getting any symptoms of breast cancer. All women should have proper healthcare in order to seek professional care to treat any early stages of breast cancers or any diseases in general. But many women have immigrated to the United States and they do not speak the official language, which is English. This causes complications for many women because they would not understand what is necessary for breast cancer. For example, African-American, Asian-American, and Hispanic women have a language barrier which stops them from the professional care that is needed. Even though every race experiences breast cancer differently, we should all have ways to detect breast cancer at its early stage. Researches have shown that urban areas have about a three or four times higher rate of breast cancer rather than in rural areas, which cannot be lead to a resolved solution because of how advanced urbanization has gotten. However, healthcare should be provided for everyone, and to minimize the percentage of one race getting breast cancer more than the other or any race getting it at all.

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