

~~National Breast Cancer Awareness Month~~

A feminist alternative:

NATIONAL CANCER INDUSTRY AWARENESS MONTH

These, and many other corporations, create public health hazards by manufacturing and selling toxic chemicals. *Then, they turn around and sell products to treat the very diseases they help cause.*

Zeneca Pharmaceuticals was charged by federal and state governments with dumping DDT's and PCB's (both known carcinogens) into the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors.
Zeneca makes a large profit every year from the sale of the carcinogenic herbicide Acetochlor.
Zeneca established and has been the primary sponsor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
Zeneca makes \$500 million/year selling the drug Tamoxifen which is used to treat breast cancer.

General Electric is one of the U.S. companies with the largest number of EPA Superfund Hazardous Waste sites.
General Electric's sale of mammography machines is more than \$100 million/year.
General Electric aggressively markets mammography to younger women, even though women over 50 are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

ONE STOP SHOPPING: WE CAUSE CANCER AND WE TREAT CANCER!

Chevron Oil released benzene, a known carcinogen, into the air over San Jose, CA. They also contaminated the groundwater with benzene, toluene, and xylene, all environmental toxins. At their Richmond, CA plant, they released over 300,000 pounds of toxins into the air.
Chevron Oil offers its credit card holders a money-back guaranteed "cancer insurance". If you don't get cancer in ten years, they'll refund your money.

Dupont is also one of the U.S. companies with the largest number of EPA Superfund Hazardous Waste sites.
Dupont makes much of the film used in mammography machines.
Dupont also aggressively markets mammography to younger women.

*It's a WIN-WIN for corporations,
and a NO-WIN for public health.*

Dow Chemical produces Chlorine. Highly toxic environmental poisons, such as dioxin, DDT, Agent Orange, and PCB's are all based on the Chlorine molecule.
Dow Corning makes silicone breast implants.

These corporations are profiting from the diseases they help cause.

What profit is there in PREVENTING cancer?????

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT

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WOMEN, CANCER, RACE, AND POVERTY:

RISK FACTORS NOBODY TELLS YOU

Many factors are known to increase a woman's risk for a diagnosis of cancer. Examples of widely known risk factors are: smoking, diet, genetics, and environmental carcinogens. But others -- especially poverty and race -- are seldom publicized.

Risk Factor #1: To Have A Low Income

- A woman who earns less than \$15,000 and does not have private insurance is more likely to have a late diagnosis of cancer. In general, late diagnosis is directly linked to higher mortality rates. Because women are more likely than men to be poor and more likely to hold marginal jobs, they are more likely not to have health insurance. By one estimate, uninsured women (without Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance) are 66% more likely to die of breast cancer than women with private insurance. In the U.S. at least 36 million people are uninsured. Uninsured women are less likely to receive hospital care.
- Inner-city and rural low-income women often lack access to basic health care, since federal funds are being steadily withdrawn from the clinics that once served them.

Risk Factor #2: To Be A Woman of Color

Racial discrimination has two direct effects on the health of women of color.

- Women of color are more likely to live and work in areas with high levels of toxic waste and carcinogens. This is environmental racism and it increases their risk of cancer.
- Women of color are also more likely to receive late diagnosis, poor treatment, and poor health results because of racial discrimination in the larger society and within the medical system. White women get breast cancer at higher rates than African American, Hispanic, or Native American women, yet relative survival rates for these women of color are lower than for white women. For Native American and African American women, both the incidence of cervical cancer and associated death rates are higher than for white women.

Risk Factor #3: To Lack Access to Health Care

- Because of the homophobia of many doctors, lesbians sometimes avoid the medical system.
- Immigrant women also make limited use of health care in order to avoid involvement with official systems.
- Women who have low levels of education or who do not speak English often find it difficult to obtain information necessary to safeguard their own health.

Use and reproduction of the Fact Sheet are encouraged.

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