



ASIAN  
BREAST  
CANCER  
PROJECT

## Facts Asian & Pacific Islander American Women Need to Know About Their Risk

Cancer is the leading cause of death of Asian & Pacific Islander (A&PI) women in the United States, with breast cancer as the most common<sup>1,2</sup>

- Cancer deaths are increasing faster among A&PI Americans than any other U.S. ethnic or racial group<sup>3</sup>.
- U.S. A&PI rates of invasive breast cancer have increased approximately 1.2 % every year between 1988 and 2005, and have yet to decline<sup>4</sup>.
- Although breast mortality rates have declined among every other U.S. racial groups, they have increased among A&PI women<sup>4</sup>.
- Among A&PI women, compared to others, breast cancer has been found to show a relatively younger median age at diagnosis and early tumor onset<sup>4</sup>.
- Breast cancer rates among U.S. A&PI women are 60% higher than those found in the same women's A&PI home countries<sup>5</sup>.
- Immigrant A&PI women who have been living in the United States for 10 years have an 80% higher risk of developing breast cancer than their newly-arrived A&PI immigrant counterparts<sup>5</sup>.
- Despite the misconception that A&PI women don't get breast cancer, the incidence rate of breast cancer among South Asian women living in the United States—along with 3rd and 4th generation Japanese and Chinese American women—reaches that of U.S. white women<sup>6</sup>.
- A&PI American women have very low rates of breast cancer screening<sup>1</sup>, which increases their chances of later stage disease presentation. Multiple studies consistently show that A&PI women over 40 obtain regular mammograms at the lowest rate of any U.S. racial/ethnic group—rates are even lower for low income and recent immigrant women<sup>1,7-9</sup>.

*To find out more information, or to get a referral to a health center that provides breast health services and breast cancer screening, please call **617-870-4056** or e-mail **abch2h@gmail.com**.*

## Reference List

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