

THE FACTS: BREAST CANCER AND YOUNG WOMEN

Despite the prevailing opinion that young women don't get breast cancer, the reality is that they *can* and they *do*. In fact, **one in every 227 women between the ages of 30 and 40 will be diagnosed with breast cancer within the next 10 years**¹. Following are some additional startling facts about breast cancer in young women:

- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in young women ages 15-54².
- More than 11,500 women age 40 and under will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and close to 1,400 will die³.
- There are more than 250,000 women in the United States age 40 and under currently living with breast cancer.
- Young women's cancers are generally more aggressive and result in lower survival rates.
- The five-year survival rate for young women with breast cancer is 83 percent⁴, which is lower than their post-menopausal counterparts.
- Young women with breast cancer struggle with many issues that their post-menopausal counterparts don't face, including: the possibility of early menopause, pregnancy after diagnosis, generally more advanced cancers at diagnosis, and higher mortality rates.
- As the incidence of young women with breast cancer is much lower than in older women, young women are an underrepresented population in many research studies.

The need for more attention and studies on this underserved population is vital. The Young Survival Coalition is the only international non-profit organization dedicated to the concerns and issues unique to young women and breast cancer. Through action, advocacy and awareness, the YSC seeks to educate the medical, research, breast cancer and legislative communities and persuade them to address breast cancer in women 40 and under. Finally, the YSC serves as a point of contact for young women living with breast cancer.

¹ NCI , SEER data updated 12/04

² National Cancer Institute 2004 Fact Book

^{3,4} American Cancer Society, Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2003-2004