

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

A Call for Innovations
in
Mammography and Policies

Eleanor Hinton Hoytt
Women in Government Health Summit
Washington, DC
November 17, 2011

The Presentation Outline

- ❑ What are Breast Cancer Disparity Issues?
- ❑ Why is there a Need for Change and Innovation?
- ❑ Mammography and Black Women
- ❑ Innovative Policies
- ❑ Future Opportunities
- ❑ Conclusions
 - Moving Beyond Pink Campaign

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

What are the Breast Cancer Disparities Issues?

- ❑ Black women
 - ❑ have the highest breast cancer death rates than women of other racial and ethnic groups.
 - ❑ Black women have the worse five-year survival rate than White women: 77 % vs. 90%.
 - ❑ Experience greater delays in diagnosis, call backs, treatment and care than white women, regardless of insurance status.
 - ❑ More likely (1.9%) to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer.
 - ❑ More likely not (10%) to receive tests to determine if breast cancer has spread to axillary (underarm) lymph nodes.

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Mammography and Black Women

- ❑ Mammograms continue to be the gold standard for screening.
 - ❑ Less effective in detecting small tumors and tumors in dense breast.
 - ❑ Younger women under 40 are often denied or have difficulty receiving mammography screening.
 - ❑ Miss 40% or more of tumors in younger Black women.
 - ❑ Have less frequent sequential mammograms than white women, yet frequency of self-reported mammograms tend to similar for Black and white women.
 - ❑ Women are confused or misinformed about the USPSTF screening recommendations.

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Why is there Need for Innovation?

❑ Black women:

- ❑ Have denser breast and ethnic variations in tumor markers such as hormone receptors.
- ❑ Breast density is one of the strongest risk factors for Black women in developing breast cancer.
- ❑ Are two times more likely to develop triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive form of cancer for which there are few effective treatment options, less research and funding.
- ❑ Under age 40 have a greater incidence of breast cancer than White women of the same age.
- ❑ Receive less optimal quality mammography screening.
- ❑ Need new, different and more appropriate assessment models and treatment regiments.

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Innovative Policies

Breast Density Inform Legislation

- ❑ Patients have a right to know their health status and risks to their breast health
- ❑ Legislation enacted in Connecticut and Texas
- ❑ Pending legislation in New York, Kansas, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Pennsylvania
- ❑ SB 791 was vetoed by California Governor Jerry Brown. It will be reintroduced in the CA state legislature.
- ❑ Representatives DeLauro (D-CT) and Israel (D-NY) introduced the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011 in October

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Innovative Policies

Early Education and Awareness

- Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009 (Wasserman Schultz, FL)
- Federal Advisory Committee established at CDC to advise and award funding

Potential Policies to save lives and reduce racial disparities

- Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2011
- Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2011
- Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011
- Mammogram and MRI Availability Act of 2011

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Innovative Policies

❑ **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT and BREAST CANCER**

- ❑ Breast Cancer Mammography screenings every 1 to 2 years for women at 40
- ❑ BRCA counseling about genetic testing for women at high risk
- ❑ Breast cancer chemoprevention counseling for women at higher risk
- ❑ Prohibits denying coverage due to a pre-existing condition such as breast cancer
- ❑ Prohibits lifetime and annual caps
- ❑ Extends coverage to young adults (up to age 26)
- ❑ Extends Medicaid coverage
- ❑ Extends uninsured women who are diagnosed can apply for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Future Opportunities

- ❑ Additional research on screening technologies may address some of the mammography and disparity issues. We support those newer technologies, such as 3-D Tomosynthesis, MRI, ultrasounds.
- ❑ Seek clarification from the USPSTF on its screening recommendations and its data source evidence
- ❑ Monitor state exchange board on affordability, governance and cost containment, transition issues and the notion of individual's choices in insurance plans
- ❑ Call for reliable measures in the clinics and trained clinicians to conduct cost-effective analyses to measure breast density

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Conclusions

- ❑ Policies and Measures that ensure ALL women have access to high-quality prevention, detection and treatment services.
- ❑ Identify those women who are high risk and offer them appropriate screening and follow-up.
- ❑ Encourage and set policies to support younger women and women with denser breast to have mammograms, to request clinical exams and to conduct breast self-exams.
- ❑ Support health facilities and providers in receiving higher Medicaid reimbursements as one way to close the gap, as Illinois has done.

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE

Will Innovation Make A Difference?

Moving Beyond Pink to End Breast Cancer Disparities

Eleanor Hinton Hoytt

www.blackwomenshealth.org

202-548-4000

BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE