

New Hampshire Right to Life

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities Ignore Abortion - Breast Cancer Connection

“Once again, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is upon us and yet the breast cancer advocacy groups remain silent about one of the most avoidable risk factors for breast cancer,” noted Philip Morrison, Director of Education for New Hampshire Right to Life. “Numerous studies have demonstrated a link between abortion and breast cancer. Yet the very organizations which claim to care about women’s health refuse to tell American women the truth about the increased risk women face from abortion.”

To date, 28 out of 37 studies worldwide indicate an increased risk of breast cancer associated with induced abortion. In one of these studies (Daling, J. et al, 1994, Risk of Breast Cancer Among Young Women: Relationship to Individual Abortion, *Journal National Cancer Institute*, 86:1584-1592.) the risk of breast cancer among women who had experienced an abortion was 50% higher than women who had never had an abortion. The study also showed that among women who first aborted before age 18, the risk was 150% higher, while women who experienced an induced abortion after age 30 had a 110% increase in risk. Even more startling was the fact that every woman in the study who had her first abortion before 18 and who had a family history of breast cancer was stricken with breast cancer.

An exhaustive review of the evidence (Brind, J. et al, 1996, A Comprehensive Review and Meta-analysis, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 50:481-496) estimated that almost five thousand American women get breast cancer every year because they chose to have an abortion. This report analyzed 23 studies that together indicated a 30 percent increase in breast cancer risk for women who had an abortion.

Most of those who deny this connection point to a study conducted in Denmark (Melbye, M. et al, 1997, *New England Journal of Medicine*, 336:81-85.) which concluded that there is no overall increased risk of breast cancer for the average woman who has had an abortion. “Unfortunately, this study is seriously flawed,” said Morrison. “I find it interesting that one flawed study seems to trump the numerous legitimate studies that demonstrate a relationship between abortion and breast cancer.”

“It is obvious that there is a political agenda behind claims that the issue is now settled,” said Morrison. “It is outrageous that the abortion-breast cancer link is being ignored. Women are still being kept in the dark by the very organizations who should warn them about avoidable cancer risks. How many more women must face this terrible disease before they are told the truth?”

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