

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Global Initiative for
Breast Cancer Awareness

UKRAINE

Community Profile Executive Summary and References

Dnepropetrovsk oblast
April-June 2009



The information contained in this Community Profile has been compiled by Course for the Cure™ participants and comes from a variety of sources. Participants have attempted to obtain the latest and most reliable data available and to accurately reflect breast cancer challenges and resources in their city at the time of the profile. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not recommend, endorse or make any representations or warranties of any kind with respect to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, quality, efficacy or non-infringement of the information contained in this summary.

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Executive Summary

Introduction of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness and Purpose of Community Profile

An estimated 25 million women around the world will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the next 25 years, and up to 10 million could die without a cure. With this in mind, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® - the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists - launched the Komen for the Cure Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness. The Institute of International Education (IIE) - one of the world's most experienced global higher education and professional exchange organizations - designed and manages the Initiative through its West Coast Center, in collaboration with local partners in eight pilot countries: Brazil, Costa Rica, Jordan, Mexico, Panama, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

The goal of the Initiative is to create a dynamic global network of dedicated activists with the skills, knowledge and vision to play a strategic role in shaping their countries' response to breast cancer. This is accomplished by (1) empowering diverse stakeholders with the training, tools and support needed to influence strategic, locally-appropriate programming and funding decisions around breast cancer; and (2) strengthening individual and organizational capacity to launch effective education, awareness and advocacy campaigns to increase early breast cancer detection and reduce mortality.

At the core of the program is Course for the Cure™, a series of training modules based on Komen's 27 years of experience in breast cancer awareness and advocacy. The training modules, which have been customized in each country, cover five key topics: Community Assessment, Volunteer and Organization Development, Awareness and Education, Fundraising, and Advocacy. In 2008, graduates of the Course for the Cure™ were eligible to apply for Komen community grants to address needs identified in the community profile. A total of 37 community grants were awarded in five countries in 2008.

This Community Profile Report details the findings of Course for the Cure™ participants in Dnipropetrovsk. The goal of the community profile is to assess breast health needs and resources, define the priorities and objectives for future action, and inform the work of breast health organizations and activists in their fight against breast cancer.

As part of the course's follow-up activities, participants have collaborated with Global Initiative staff to apply the community profile skills they are learning. Demographic, statistical, and program and service provider data – as well as data from formal and informal leaders in the community – are included to provide a multifaceted picture of breast health. After collecting and analyzing available data on breast health and services, participants identified and prioritized the community's current unmet needs or “gaps” in breast health. These prioritized gaps form the basis for developing plans for education outreach, awareness programs and advocacy efforts to improve breast health outcomes. The Community Profile should be made widely available to the community and used on an on-going basis to inform strategic planning around breast health and to strengthen existing programs and services. As a living document, it also needs to be updated on a regular basis as circumstances change and new information becomes available.

Brief Overview of Country Context

Between early 1993, when Ukraine registered its greatest size of population (52,244,100 people), and early 2008 (46,372,700 people), the natural population loss alongside negative migration balance resulted in Ukraine's population declining by 5,871,400 persons. The major causes of depopulation were a 40 percent decline in birth rate over the period and a rise in death rate by nearly 30 per cent. As of 1 January 2008, the urban and rural population in absolute figures amounts to 31,668,800 and 14,703,900 respectively. Average life expectancy is 63.2 years for men and 73.8 for women. Women account for 54 percent of Ukraine's population. The proportion of female population significantly exceeded the male in the older age groups, with twice as many women as men in the 65+ age group.

Breast cancer has occupied the first place in the pattern of malignant neoplasms in Ukrainian women over the past 16 years, and the situation remains stable from year to year. The highest level is registered at ages between 45 and 65 (over 50% of all cases). Breast cancer incidence per 100,000 women increased from 22.6 in 1986 to 56.1 in 2005. About 27.6% of cases are diagnosed in advanced stages (III-IV). The National Cancer Registry lumps data on cases in stages I and II together, making it impossible to precisely determine the number of cases detected in the earliest stage.

The highest breast cancer disease incidence has been registered in the Odesa Region, Kharkiv Region, Dnipropetrovsk Region, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea – all listed regions are situated in the south and east of Ukraine - and in the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol. Breast cancer morbidity rates in regions affected by the Chernobyl accident (Chernihiv Region, Zhytomyr Region, Kyiv Region and Rivne Region) does not exceed Ukraine's average but has tended to gradually increase during last 20 years.

The rate of breast cancer mortality was registered in year 2006 as 17.5 per 100,000 of female population, and 7,607 women died of breast cancer in 2006. Starting from age 30, breast cancer is number one cause of cancer death among women population.

The highest levels of breast cancer mortality can be seen in Odesa Region, Kharkiv Region, Dnipropetrovsk Region, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Kyiv City.

Breast cancer diagnostics in Ukraine

The public healthcare system has been unchanged since Soviet times. General distinctive features of the public healthcare system in Ukraine are as follows:

- State ownership of health care institutions and establishments (private institutions do not exceed 5% and are practically absent in oncology);
- Both the distribution of funds and sector management have a “top down” structure;
- Systems are not transparent and funding is limited leaving the general paying illegally for services with no quality guarantee;
- Lack of healthcare reform. Healthcare is still declared free of charge, but there are very few legislative policies to ensure this for the general population. There are some private

insurance companies that only provide services for employees of large, and often Western companies. insurance system of health care is not introduced for the minority of the population of Ukraine.

Breast pathology is identified at the level of primary care providers, including: village first-aid stations in rural areas and exam rooms at polyclinics, maternity welfare centers, family doctors' clinics, general-purpose polyclinics and others in (rural) district centers and towns. Oncological dispensaries (centers) are specialized medical institutions providing final diagnostics and breast cancer treatment. As a rule there is one such dispensary per regional centre and region. Kyiv and other big cities (with more than 1 million residents) have one dispensary for the city and one for the region. The Kyiv-based Institute of Cancer of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine is the leading specialized medical institution.

Major methods to diagnose breast diseases are mammography, clinical examination of breasts (CBE), ultrasound investigation and self-examination of breasts.

Starting in 2001, civil society organizations and state-run healthcare institutions stepped up efforts to purchase diagnostic equipment (mammographs and mammogram developing machines) and mount information campaigns to make women aware of the need for screening breast examination in particular by mammography.

CBE is supposed to be carried out by medical personnel, obstetricians of village first-aid stations (nurses and midwives out patient units), medical assistants, district therapists, Ob/GYN specialists, family doctors, surgeons and oncologist surgeons. According to statistical data of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Department of Woman and Child Health Care, 2004 the percentage of breast cancer cases initially detected by clinical breast examination varies from 18% to 40.9% in different regions of Ukraine.

Brief Overview of Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Demographical Findings

Dnipropetrovsk oblast is situated in the eastern part of Ukraine and is one of the biggest oblasts in the country. 712 big enterprises of twenty industry branches work in the region; they significantly pollute the environment. As a result, the oblast is regarded the zone of environmental disaster. As of 01.01.2009 the population makes 3,370,900 persons. In the national structure of population in Dnipropetrovsk oblast Ukrainians prevail (about 70%). The second ethnic group is Russians (about 25%). Among other nationalities there are Belarusians, Hebrews, Armenians and others.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast's female and male population account for 54.4 and 45.6 per cent respectively. Average life expectancy of men and women in Dnipropetrovsk is 60.90 and 72.76 years oblast accordingly.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast's female population breaks down into the following age groups: 34.5% are aged under 30, 13.4% are between 30 and 39, 22% between 40 and 54, and 30.1% are 55 or older. Working women form 65.7% and unemployed women and economically inactive women – 34.3%.

Breast Cancer Statistics

The morbidity indices per 100,000 women in Dnipropetrovsk oblast are higher than average indices in Ukraine. An average 42.2 new cases are diagnosed per 100,000 women every year. Mortality rate is also higher than average in Ukraine and forms 19,6 per 100,000 women.

Stages I-II account for an average 68% of cancers and stages III-IV for 32% of all cases detected annually.

The average percentage of women who get treatment after diagnosed breast cancer in Dnipropetrovsk oblast is 70%, that is significantly lower than the average one in Ukraine. The result of this is higher percentage of mortality in the oblast than that in other oblasts of Ukraine.

Programs and Services

Dnipropetrovsk oblast has a developed system of medical institutions, where there is a possibility to have clinical breast examination. These services are provided by doctors of women's health centers and by obstetricians of medical consulting rooms, of which are 243 in the oblast.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast is an industrial region, which has a lot of departmental clinics that serve employees of industrial enterprises. To serve the female population, according to the data of the National cancer registry, 41 mammography machines and 221 ultrasound devices work in the oblast. From observations and reports from partners, it seems that there are 18 mammography machines in the oblast and 3 of them are not working. In either case, there is no organized program of mammography population screening. Women can have mammography **only** by prescription of respective specialist: gynecologist, oncologist, mammologist or surgeon, who after checking a woman decides what type of examination she needs – mammography or US. Mammography examination is formally free of charge, but because of insufficient state financing and absence of film, a woman should cover its cost.

In 2007 Dnipropetrovsk City Council adopted the “Program of development and improvement of quality in providing oncological assistance to the population of Dnipropetrovsk for years 2007-2012.”

Educational campaigns on breast cancer are not continuous and powerful, from time to time informational leaflets on early detection for patients appear in medical institutions, but their number does not meet women’s needs a significant influence their motivation.

During interviews, doctors noticed that teaching programs on CBE and annual monitoring of services provided by medical staff are necessary to increase the quality and effectiveness of screening. There isn’t a position of oncologist-mammologist in medical institutions of the oblast and such specialists are not trained by medical educational institutions, therefore the oblast is in need of skilled professionals.

Identified and Prioritized Gaps

Problems and gaps determined by the participants by priority:

1. Women’s low awareness of breast cancer, early detection methods and effective and positive results of treatment
2. Insufficient or poor preparation of specialists in providing women with CBE
3. Absence of the support component for oncological patients
4. Inability of women to cover expenses connected with diagnostics and treatment

Recommended Next Steps: Strategic Goals and Outcome Objectives

The main goals and objectives:

- To raise awareness of women population about efficiency and advantages of early detection.
 - By 2012 increase to 70% proportion of women aged 40 + getting an annual CBE
 - By end of 2010, 450 teachers of valeology, deputy directors on educational work and out-of-class activities will be trained on assistance to early breast cancer detection for women.
- To improve professional level of medical personnel in providing quality services on clinical breast examination for women.
 - by 2011 increase to 50% proportion of doctors who got postgraduate training and offer to women high quality services of clinical breast examination
- To strengthen information support to oncological patients.
 - By end of 2010, 1 public organization, which will provide assistance to breast cancer survivors, is created.
 - By end of 2010, 40% of survivors in Dnipropetrovsk oblast get information and psychological support on the base of survivors group “Zhuravushka”.

- By end of 2010, increase to 20% proportion of new volunteers with the desire to support oncological patients.