

## Issues Surrounding Access to Breast Reconstruction

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide.<sup>1</sup>

**3.8 million** breast cancer survivors in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>



Overall rate of immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy in the U.S.

# 38-56%

### BREAST RECONSTRUTION DISPARITIES



following mastectomy compared to women with private insurance.<sup>6</sup>

of U.S. women with breast cancer who live below the poverty line are inadequately insured<sup>4</sup> and may not have access to breast reconstructive surgery despite reconstruction being considered the standard of care in breast cancer recovery.<sup>5</sup>

> Studies show significantly lower rates of breast reconstruction among Black, Hispanic and Asian women compared to white women.<sup>7</sup>

#### POST-MASTECTOMY OUTCOMES

After mastectomy surgery, patients may experience depression, embarrassment, and hopelessness, impacting personal and professional relationships. In some cases, they may even drop out of the workforce.<sup>8</sup>

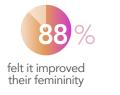
Poor women are **4x more likely to be jobless** by the end of their breast cancer treatment.<sup>9</sup>



Women who have undergone mastectomy for breast cancer have a higher risk for developing short-term depression symptoms.<sup>10</sup>

#### BREAST RECONSTRUCTION OUTCOMES

**Breast reconstruction after mastectomy offers clinical, cosmetic, and psychosocial benefits** compared with mastectomy alone.<sup>11,12,13</sup> One study found that 12 months after reconstructions, **all respondents reported a positive change in life**:<sup>14</sup>





whole



felt more comfortable in social situations



To learn more about how you can help women facing these issues, visit

## ReshapingLivesFullCircle.org

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