

# Issues Surrounding Access to Breast Reconstruction

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

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

An estimated **281,550 new cases of breast cancer** will be diagnosed in U.S. women in 2021.<sup>1</sup>

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

**38-56%**<sup>2,3</sup>

## BREAST RECONSTRUCTION DISPARITIES

**60%**

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>

Women on Medicaid were **3x less likely to have breast reconstruction** following mastectomy compared to women with private insurance.<sup>6</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>

**88%**

felt it improved their femininity

**98%**

felt more whole

**97%**

felt more comfortable in social situations