

# SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH CANCER: ADDRESSING UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND UNMET NEEDS

**SURVEY REVEALED WE MUST ACT NOW TO IMPROVE EDUCATION, SCREENING PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN WITH CANCER ACROSS THE GLOBE**

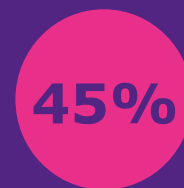
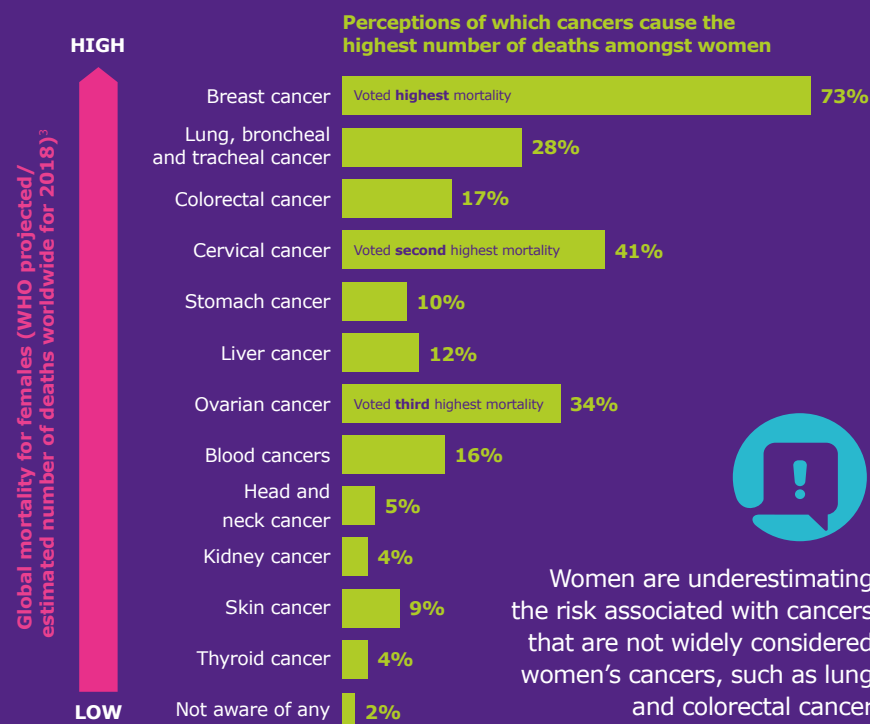


**ESTIMATED 8.6 MILLION CASES OF CANCER IN WOMEN IN 2018<sup>1</sup>**



**CANCER IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN WOMEN WORLDWIDE<sup>2</sup>**

## EDUCATION



Only **45%** reported they were aware of cancer signs and symptoms before receiving their diagnosis



Women are underestimating the risk associated with cancers that are not widely considered women's cancers, such as lung and colorectal cancer

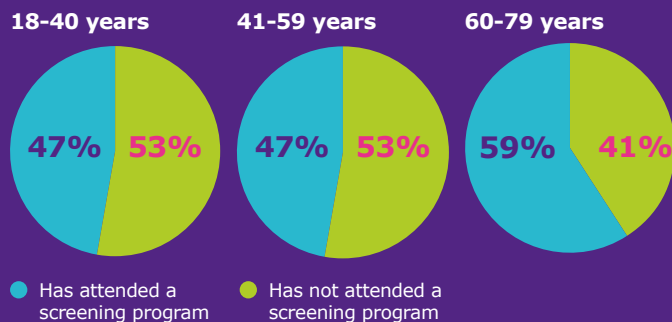


Women with a low level of education, who had some or no schooling, were most likely to be unaware of risk factors associated with cancer

## SCREENING

Awareness of and access to cancer screening programs (CSPs) must be improved to support earlier diagnosis of cancer in women

### ATTENDANCE RATES

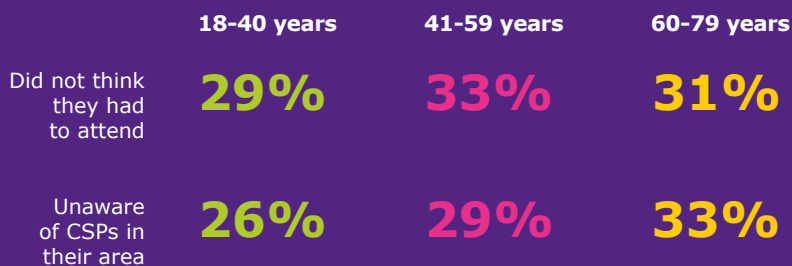


**49%** of women aged 18-40 were **more likely to face delays in diagnosis** compared to other age groups, mainly due to not taking symptoms seriously (43%)

**Delays in diagnosis** were more common for women in lower-middle income countries

Women's understanding of the benefits of early cancer detection must be improved to remove barriers to accessing CSPs

### REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING



#### Other barriers included:

- Being unaware of the need to screen
- Other commitments
- Fear of diagnosis or embarrassment
- Affordability

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Women struggle to find financial, employment, emotional or fertility support to help them balance the needs of their health, their work, and their family / caregiving

**25%** of women felt they were **stigmatized more than men** because of their cancer

**42%** said their **personal finances were impacted** by cancer and its treatment, rising to **74%** in lower-middle income countries

Only **42%** had **accessed support services**. One-to-one counselling and support group attendance were the most popular forms of support service

**34%** received **no support from their employer** following diagnosis

**80%** believed they **did not receive enough support** to manage family responsibilities or work

**48%** of women of childbearing age who were not offered **fertility or family planning advice** stated they would have liked to have received that support

The *Supporting Women With Cancer* survey was conducted in 2018 by Cello Health, a thought-leading health advisory firm, to ensure that findings were an accurate representation of women's experiences.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. International Agency for Research on Cancer. All Cancers Factsheet. Source: Globocan 2018. Available at: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/cancers/39-All-cancers-fact-sheet.pdf>. Last accessed: August 2019.  
<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. Fact Sheets: Cancer. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer>. Last accessed: August 2019.  
<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Cancer Today. Available at: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today/home>. Last accessed: August 2019.