

## **Breast cancer risk factor knowledge among Korean American women in New York City**

*Eunjee Shin, MED, Public Health and Research Center, Korean Community Services, New York, NY*

*Kay Chun, MD, Public Health and Research Center, Korean Community Services, New York, NY*

*Angela Park, BS, Public Health and Research Center, Korean Community Services, New York, NY*

*Erica Lee, MSW, The New York Asian Women's Center, New York, NY*

*Shao-Chee Sim, PhD, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, New York, NY*

*Laureen Hom, MPH, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, New York, NY*

*Simona Kwon, DrPH, MPH, Institute of Community Health & Research, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY*

*Nadia Islam, PhD, Center for Study of Asian American Health, NYU Institute of Community Health and Research, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY*

### **Introduction**

In the United States, breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among US women. There is a significant increase in incidence rates during 1998-2004 across time period in Asian American women (AAW). Especially, foreign-born Korean American women (KAW) had the largest increase in breast cancer incidence about 4% every year compare to other AAW but few studies addressing the extent of breast cancer knowledge within this community.

### **Methods**

A convenience sample of N=304 KAW were surveyed at community health fairs in NYC. The survey instrument consisted of demographic information and breast cancer risk factor knowledge. The descriptive analysis was conducted and additional analysis will be conducted to assess the association between selected demographic variables and breast cancer knowledge.

### **Results**

Approximately, 83% of the participants spoke English at or below average and 46% had lived in the US for less than 10 years. Overall, low score on breast cancer risk factor knowledge were reported. Only, 30% of the women (age 50 or older) identified that woman older than 50 were more susceptible in getting breast cancer.

### **Conclusion**

Lack of acculturation such as language fluency and the length of US stay may have influenced their knowledge gaps on breast cancer. There is a need to develop an educational program for this subgroup of AAW to increase knowledge on breast cancer. Further study should be conducted on what is the most effective and appropriate type of education based on their cultural and linguistic needs.

### **Learning Objectives**

- To better understand what demographic factors are associated with low level of breast cancer risk factor knowledge among Korean immigrant women.
- To identify possible education and intervention strategies to promote awareness and knowledge of breast cancer in the Korean immigrant communities.