

We are all accountable for each other. So in order to change the world, you have to be the change. So we have to be the example. We have the information, we understand the disease. We have to be the voice for the voiceless... give them a voice and remind them that they have a voice and use it."



Thank you to the women and men who shared their frustrations, hopes and intentions to change lives throughout Chicago. You created the blue print, now we must work together.

For more information, email info@sistersworkingitout.org

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Fighting Breast Cancer on Chicago's Southside

*"One Voice Tells A Story.
Multiple Voices, We Make
A Statement!"*



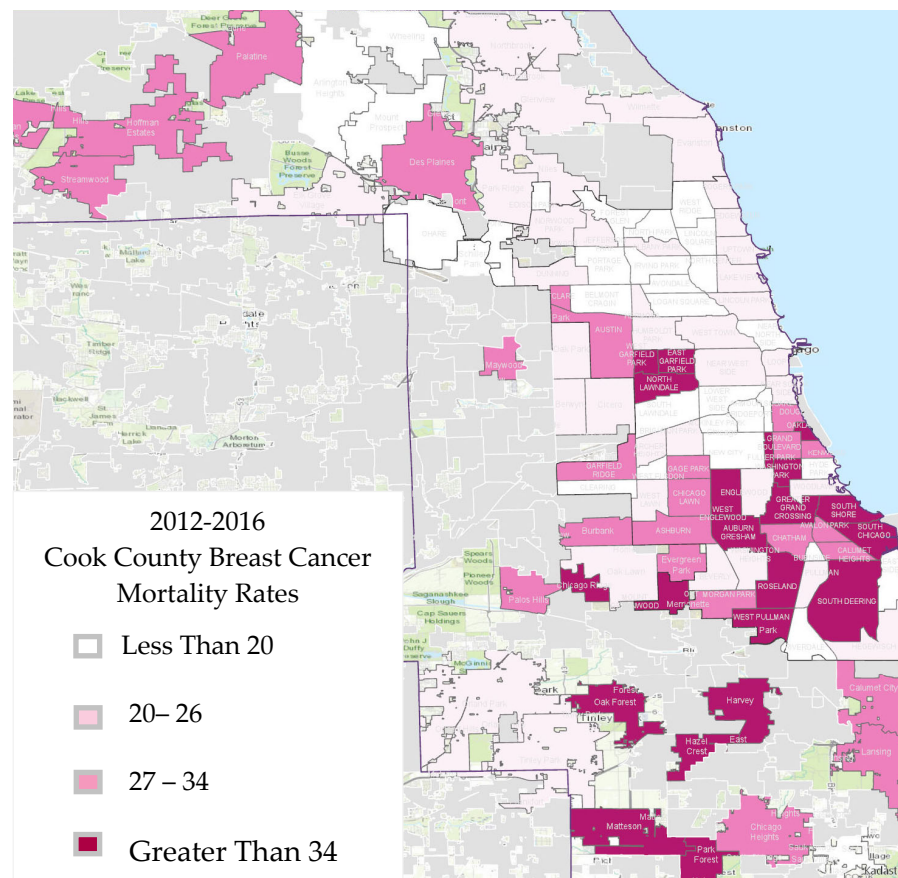
Sisters Working It Out

PAF Patient Advocate
Foundation

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among females in the U.S., Illinois, Chicago and Suburban Cook County (SCC). State data shows that Southland communities have mortality rates as high as 35 - 50/100,000 compared to the city rate 26/100,00.

For some breast cancers the 5 year survival rate is nearly 100%.

However, black women on the Southside are 35% to 46% more likely to die from breast cancer than women in other parts of the city.



A COMMUNITY OUTRAGED!



"I've lived here over 30 years, but I'm just appalled at this information and the fact that nobody seems to care."

"I'm angry and I feel that there's a sense of urgency around advocacy and education, and really going beyond, kind of like what we're doing here today..."

"I know the power that we have in numbers as women. We deserve better, and we can do better."

FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

On Tuesday March 28, 2019, Sisters Working It Out and Patient Advocate Foundation convened a community conversation at the Kroc Center in Roseland. A group of 40 community stakeholders representing nurses, educators, health care professionals, breast cancer survivors and faith-based members galvanized to create change for black women on the southland area. The following organizations were represented Sisters Network Chicago Chapter, Different Shades of Pink/Brave Chick Charities, Mile Square Health Center, Lilydale First Baptist Church and Matters At Heart. The group discussed data highlighting the scope of breast cancer disparities in their communities, identified service gaps contributing to the problem and prioritized solutions to address breast cancer disparities on the southside. This document summarizes the findings from the community conversation.

IDENTIFYING GAPS

Food Deserts Environmental Factors
Inferior Health Care Fear, Stress, Isolation

"They are using dollar stores for food stores in our community, gas stations."

"So if you look at the communities of color, all the hospitals that sit in our communities, there is a lack of trust that you're going to get good care, that you're going to be diagnosed with the right thing."

"So we all suffering in silence now, about this, because I don't want to share with anybody."

"All the gases coming from that decomposing material was going into the environment. We had more special ed kids and more cases of cancer. It was just ridiculous."

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

"...it would be really cool to bring food trucks in with certain things, or even that Rosebud place would be a good place for a farmer's market. I like the idea about showing people how to cook."

"we've got to get the hospitals to come out more, to engage more with the community, because if I don't trust you, I'm not going to come to you for anything, that's a problem."

I would organize and strengthen block clubs, because it's family by family, house by house, block by block.

Reach out to the churches.. it's a lot in this area. They are very resourceful. They have a lot of information, and we have avenues to spread the information.

"...you can get some news outlet to get the same type of compassion that you have to show a lot of the things that you're talking about right now."

NEXT STEPS

Since the community conversation, Sisters Working It Out, Patient Advocate Foundation and a small group of community partners have been working to prioritize the recommendations provided by stakeholders. One of the most favored suggestions was investigating environmental factors impacting cancer outcomes. Shortly following the meeting, we researched the feasibility of conducting an environmental study of the Southland area, what was discovered is that EPA studies are extremely expensive and often inconclusive. To ensure that the information provided is used for meaningful and sustainable action, we prioritized a list of actionable recommendation with a focus on strengthening block clubs. Currently, SWIO and its partners are creating specific resources for block club captains that will facilitate dissemination of breast cancer education and resource for screening and treatment. A training for block club captains will be held in early fall. The group is also looking into creating specific tools for faith-based institutions and news outlets. This conversation represents the beginning of a movement to save lives on the southside. Much more must be done and more people must get involved.