Breast cancer is a major public health concern for all women, including women with disabilities. Disabled women are just as likely as women without disabilities to have ever received a mammogram; however, they are significantly less likely to have been screened within the recommended guidelines. The public health community has increased breast cancer awareness and encouraged women to adopt preventive practices through the use of health communication messages and campaigns, yet few communication messages exist that target women with disabilities.

After a multi-year qualitative study that looked at the barriers to breast cancer screening for women with physical disabilities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research, created and tested the “Right To Know” (RTK) materials. The RTK materials are health promotion materials designed to increase awareness of breast health care among women with physical disabilities and encourage these women to get screened. The materials are available in both English and Spanish and feature four women (one Latina, one African American and two Caucasians), with physical disabilities who have survived breast cancer.

The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH), funded by the CDC, in partnership with numerous state and community partners are disseminating the RTK materials starting in October 2009.

If you would like more information about the Right to Know materials please contact:
Clara Welsch at 503-494-3642 or welschc@ohsu.edu

Or visit: www.oidd.org/cca/oodh

- Poster series
- MP3 recordings
- Banner ads
- Low tech fliers
- Ad slicks
- Tip sheet
- Dissemination guide
- CDC.gov/TheRightToKnow