



# The 2nd international Congress of Breast Disease Centers

Experience from a Breast Cancer Center In Nazareth,  
serving the Jewish and Arab Israeli population

**By: Dr. Raymond Manasa**

**2011-2012**

# The Holy Family Hospital HFH

Breast care center was founded in 2002

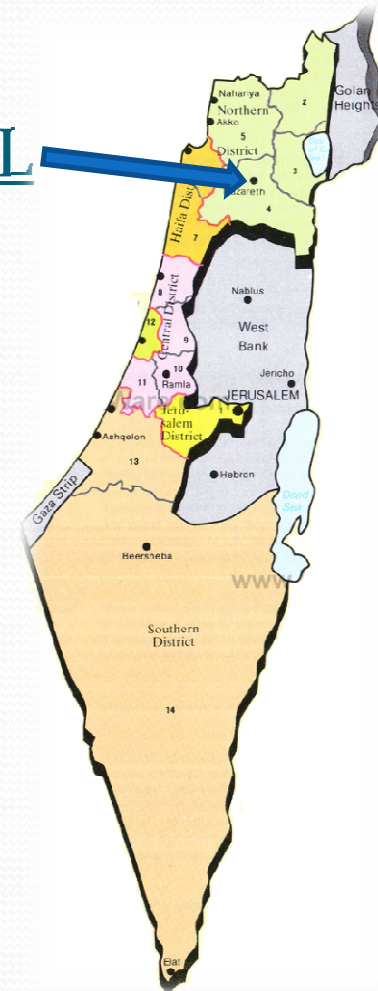
NAZARETH ISRAEL

The center provides health services to diverse communities

In ISRAEL :

80% Jews – Multi ethnical groups

20% Arabs – Moslems, Christians, Druze





# Israel Status

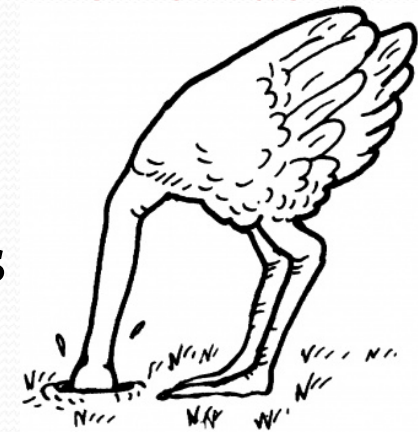
- Every year about 4,000 to 4,500 women are diagnosed as having breast cancer
- About 1000 – 1200 die of that cancer yearly
- Breast cancer is the number one killer among women under 50 years old.
- Breast cancer also appears among men (1 of 100).

## Israeli National screening program 1995

- The Israeli law defines that every woman between 50-74 is entitled to have a governmental funded mammography test once every two years.
- At that time till 1998 the compliance among Arabs was 0-1%, among Jews 30%.
- This was the base ground where we started the first pilot study in Israeli Arab population in the Nazareth area.

# Why 0-1% compliance ....

- Fear – even the word Cancer is frightening in Arab communities. They say “عندها هداك المرض!” – “She has that illness !”.
- Fear from discovering cancer.
- Shyness – Coming from a highly religious and conservative culture.
- Economic situation.
- Lack of proper transportation to faraway facilities.



# Till 1995

- There was lacking of
  - Awareness – S.B.E
  - Breast clinics – C.B.E
  - Facilities
  - Mammography center.

# The pilot study 1995-1998

## Objectives

- Raising awareness for successful screening.  
Theoretical, Practical and clinical.

The aim was to reach as much as possible through inviting 1000 ladies from 11 villages to – Health day, Lectures, Films about breast cancer, SBE Self breast examination and CBE Clinical breast examination.

- Physical examinations where held to the ladies that attended the health day of different ages.

# Objectives ....

- 100 professionals, Physicians and nurses more than 15 health days

The compliance was 66%-120%. The first aim was 11 villages and 1000 ladies which was fulfilled in the first month so we decided to extend the pilot to a wide and comprehensive ongoing program. That was the time which the urgent need of a breast center comprehended.



# The shocking effect . . . .





# What resulted from the pilot study

- A direct result was comprehending the necessity of establishing breast centers.
- Enhancing sick funds breast clinics.
- To make efforts to raise the awareness of screening.

Therefore ....



# The establishment.

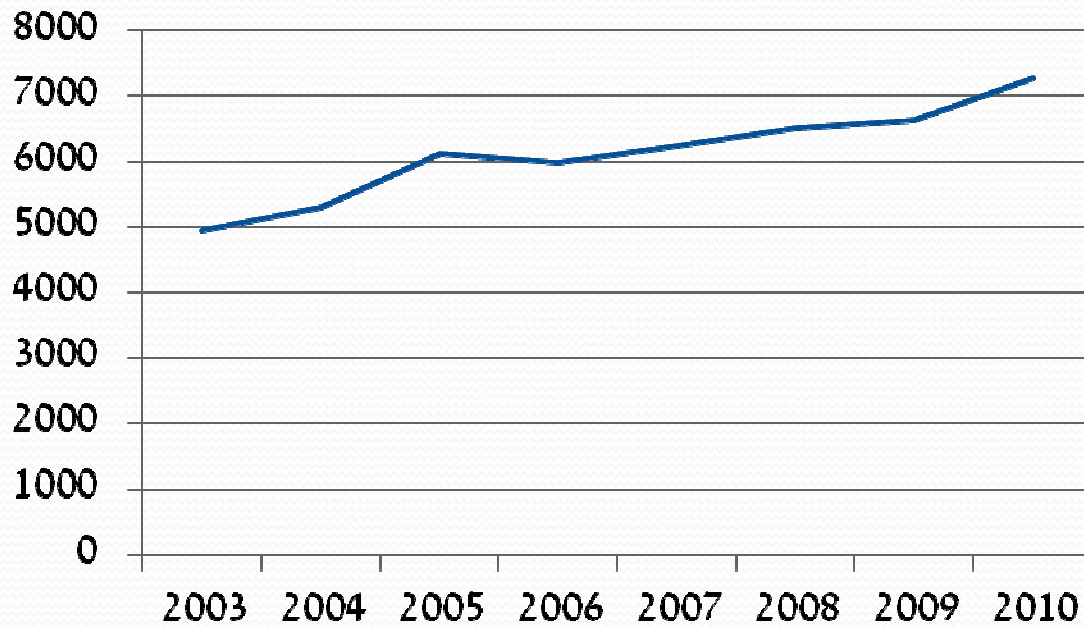
- Our Comprehensive breast center was established in the year 2002.
- The pilot study and the establishment of the center was made with the help of the “Israeli Cancer Association”

# The center

- The center includes
  - Surgeons
  - Oncologists
  - Radiologists
  - Social workers
  - Nurses
  - Administration
- At the center
  - Breast clinic
  - Mammography
  - US
  - Biopsies
  - Operations (held at the hospital)
  - Etc.

# Breast center activities

## Total Mammographies

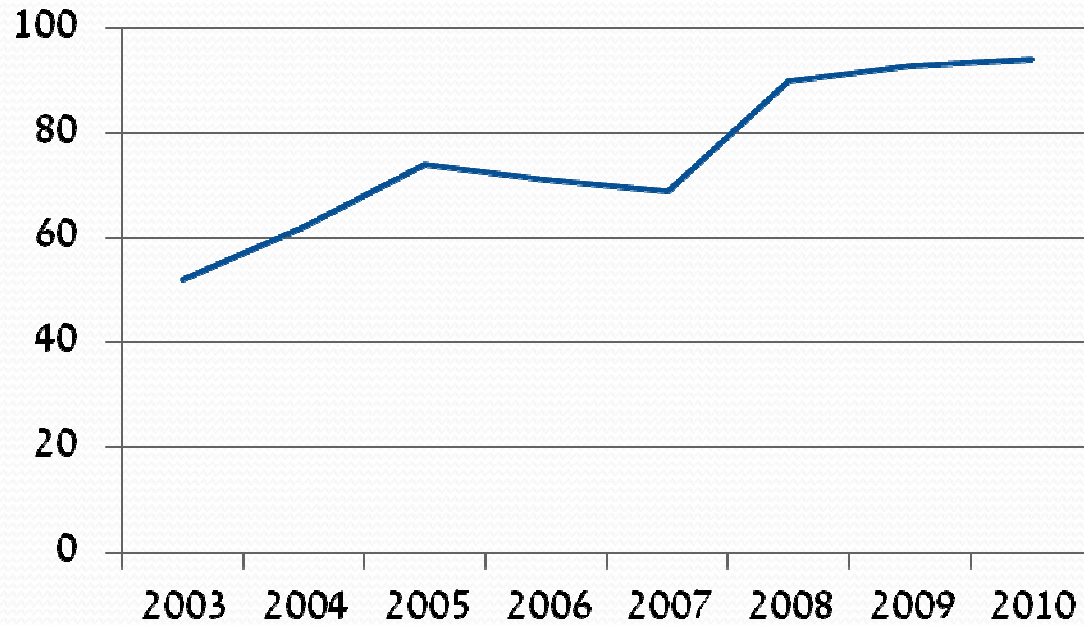


Total Diagnostic & Screening Mammography	Year
4950	2003
5292	2004
6125	2005
5989	2006
6230	2007
6518	2008
6623	2009
7266	2010

\* The distribution is about 35% Diagnostic and 65% Screening Mammography.

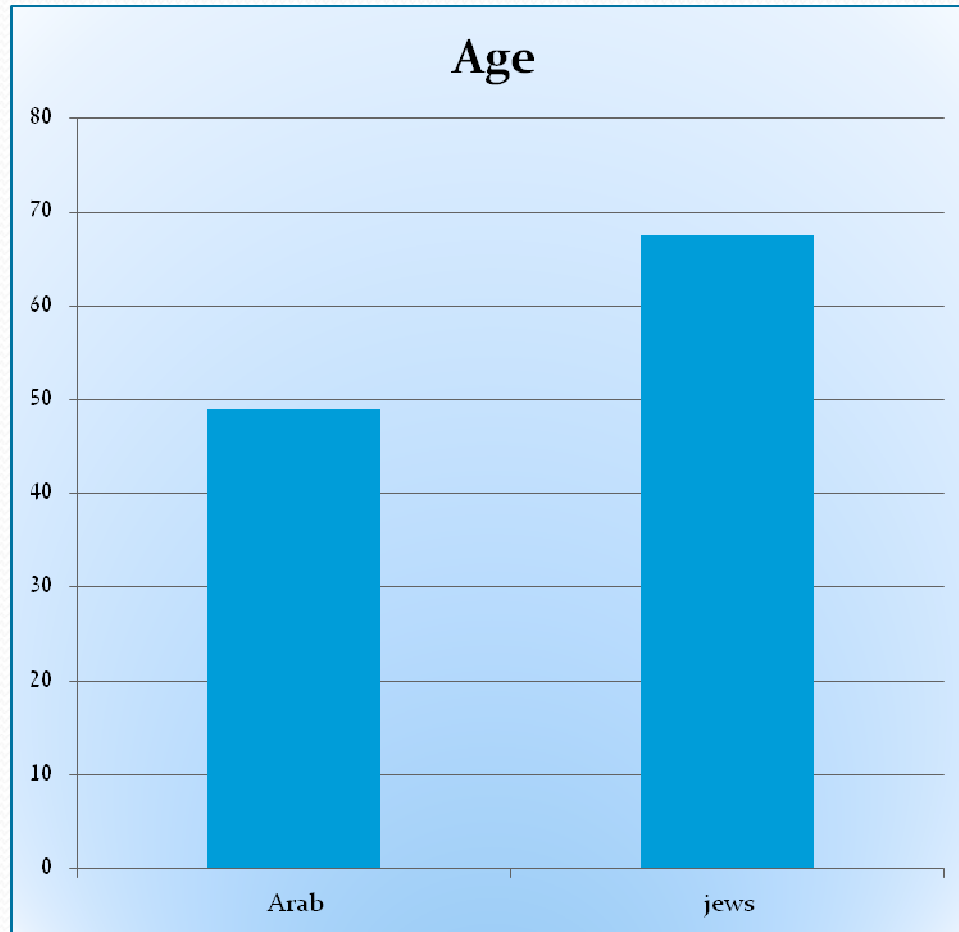
# Breast center activities

**Breast Cancer**



Breast Cancer	Breast biopsy	Breast ultrasound	Mamo's	Year
52	192	1255	4950	2003
62	278	1704	5292	2004
74	396	2163	6125	2005
71	381	1941	5989	2006
69	287	1866	6230	2007
90	291	2262	6518	2008
93	300	2748	6623	2009
94	309	2787	7266	2010

## Age to Nationality Cross-section At first year of establishment 2003



- Arab women;  
count = 38;  
average age = 48.97;

- Jewish women  
count = 14;  
average age = 67.5;

Total = 52

Range = 29 till 81

# Ethnic cross-section

Year 2003

Total 52 – 38 Arabs 14 Jews

Moslem

Examined: 23

Average age: 48

Range : 29 till 71

Christian

Examined: 15

Average age: 51

Range : 34 till 73

Year 2005

Total 74 – 47 Arabs 27 Jews

Moslem

Examined: 26

Average age: 55

Range : 36 till 94

Christian

Examined: 21

Average age: 53

Range : 32 till 79



# According to nationality

Jewish women diagnosed	Arab women diagnosed	Year
Age average	Age average	
~ 65	~ 53	2003-2010

## Comparing Arab women to Jewish women, we found:

- 12 Years of age difference.
- Within Arabic ethnicity no noticeable differences found.

# Incidence of breast cancer

In general age till 76 years old.

Arab	Year	Jew
1:40	1990	1:10
1:30	1994	1:10
1:24	1998	1:10
1:22	2003	1:8-9
1:20	2006	1:8-9
1:18	2007	1:8-9
1:18	2009	1:8-9

# Female breast cancer in Israel

## Ratio between Arabs and Jews

Arab	Year	Jew
1	1990	4
1	1994	3
1	1998	2.5
1	22003	2.2
1	2006	2
1	2007	1.8
1	2009	1.8

# Ratio according to age

Arabic women	Jewish women
Above 50 years	
<b>1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Under 50 years	
<b>1</b>	<b>1.2</b>

# Impression ...

- Comparing young Arab women to young Jewish women, we found almost the same percentage of incidence.
- The morbidity and mortality is higher amongst Arab women probably due to late diagnoses.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for wider and deeper study and research especially when we are dealing with a group of women at early ages who do not attend the routine mammography screening.

- **Breast cancer of <50 Arab women is about 43% of the total incidences.**

# National Health Insurance Program

The Screening Mammography of women above 50 years old:

Year	Arab	Jew
1995-1998	0-1%	30%
2003	45%	70%
2006	60%	70%
2009	72%	72%

# Current status

- At 2008 - 4147 Cancer cases where diagnosed from which 1216 by screening, 868 (71%) cases where women making a **second** screening mammography.
- Those cases are of early stage cancer which increase the chances of survival, cure; decrease mortality, morbidity.

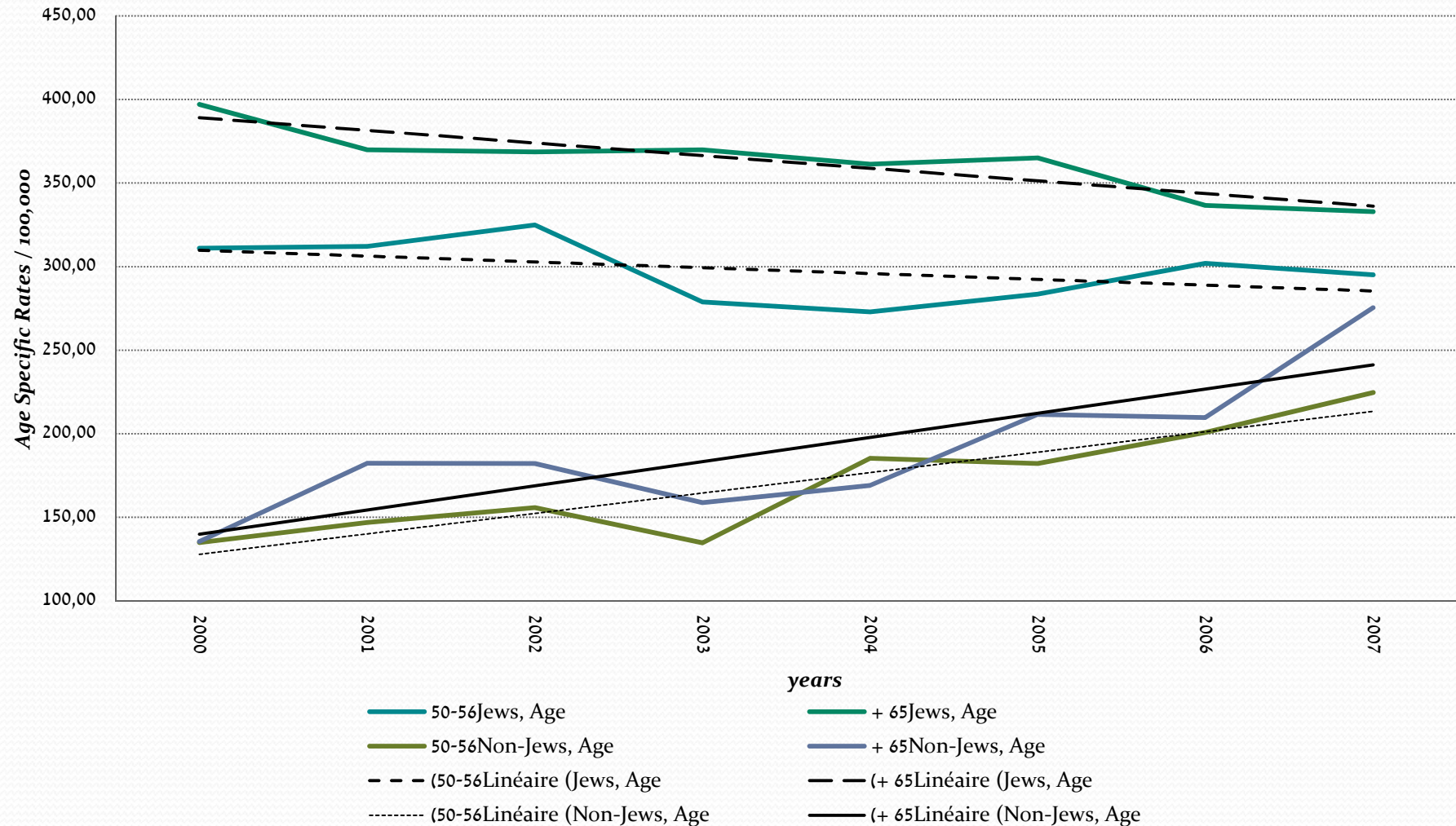
**The Importance of attending screening mammography**

# Current status

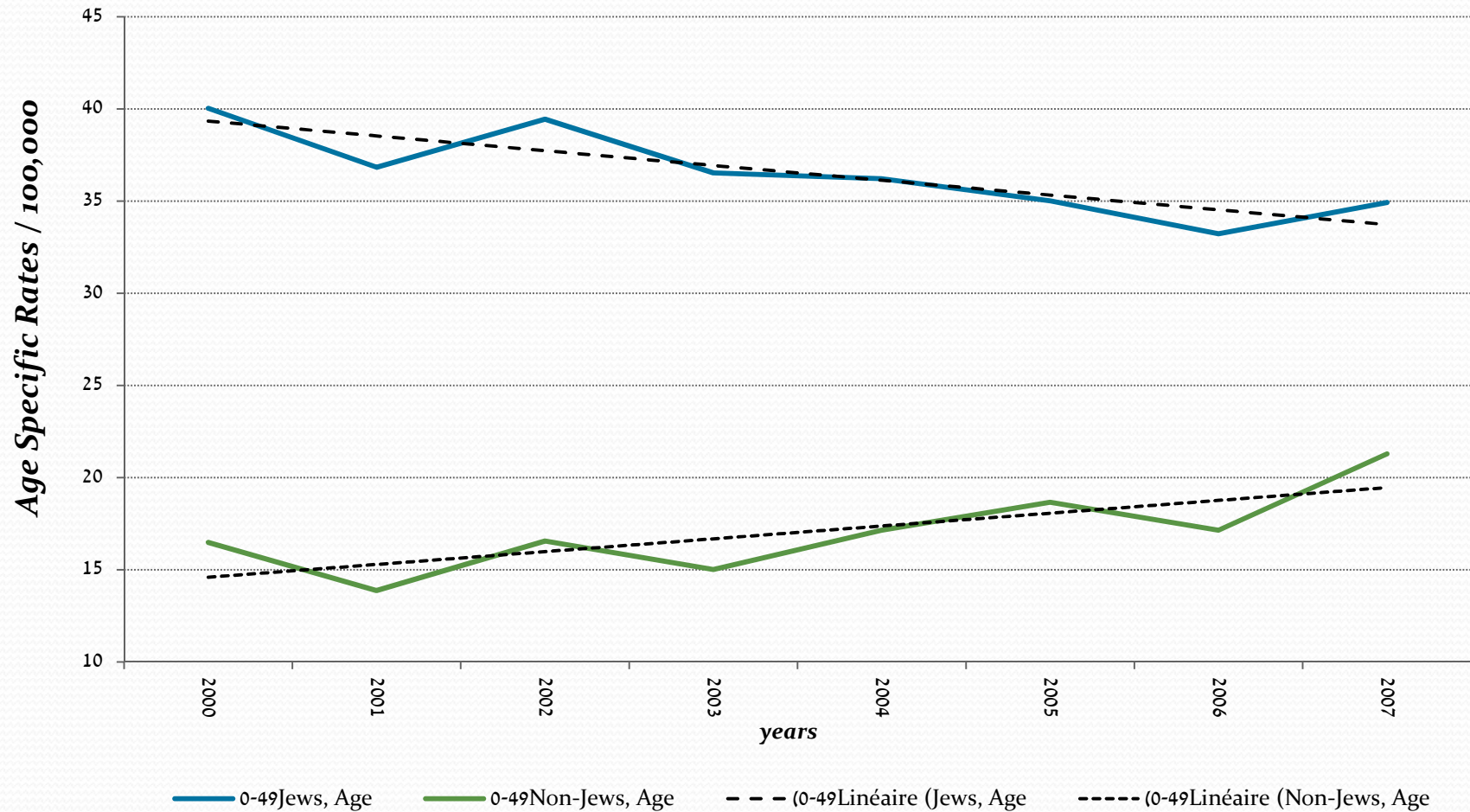
- More than 4,000,000 mammography tests are made at a total of 56 mammography centers, 50% belong to the national screening program including 1 mobile mammography facility that made 60,000 mammography tests.
- 2009 – 347,778 screening of the ages 50-74 (the once in two years program), 53.3% (185,348) were test for a previously examined women.
- The final compliance was 72% among Arabs and Jews.
- 5-10% less among ultra-orthodox Jew women (haredim)



# Breast Cancer by Ages, Age 50+, 2000-2007



# Breast Cancer, Age 0-49, 2000-2007



# What do we see from the data?

- We can see clearly from the previous data that comparing Arab women to Jewish women is definitely worrying, Between 1996 and 2007 Arab women incidence of cancer is in a huge rise (+105%) while Jewish women is almost stable (+3%).
- **Breast cancer of <50 Arab women is about 43% of the total incidences.**

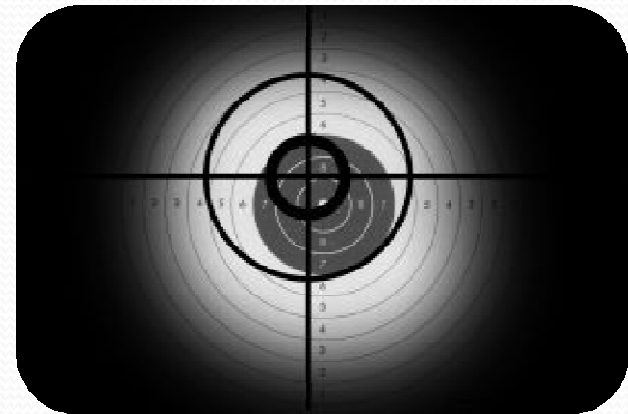


# Recent Indications.

- Mortality rates from breast cancer is among the highest in the world (17%), even though according to the central statistics agency the mortality is declining in the last 10 years. In 1998 22.6 women died (of 100,000) while in 2009 only 17.4 women died (of 100,000) which is certainly a substantial decline indicating higher recovery rates of breast cancer.
- Again the Arab women mortality is in the rise where in 1996 there was 17.1 cases while in 2007 it stepped up to 19.0 cases.

# Genetic blindness !

- In spite of proven family breast cancer within Arabic women no gene mutation has been discovered yet. (Like **breast cancer susceptibility gene 1 and 2 [BRCA1&2]). Therefore making our work like “shooting in the dark”.**



# Retrospect and summary....

- Regardless how much treatment is developed and became more effective, unless patients are **diagnosed** no treatment can't help!
- Therefore it is very important to keep working on raising consciousness among women to get checked regularly.
- **Conclusion:** All women should be in a defined **framework** at a specialized breast clinic; Starting of the age of 25, For Breast Clinical Examination (BCE).



# Retrospect and summary....

- Lowering the age of screening mammography from 50 to 40 years old; And for women with family history to 35 years.
- Breast ultrasound should be considered to be added to the mammogram automatically for younger ages.
- Breast MRI facility should be more available according to world wide standards.



**You have been a great audience  
Thank you all,**

**By: Dr. Raymond Manasa  
2011-2012**