



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Roxanne M. Strohmeier-Ruschke</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>S0323</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>What Factors Keep Women in Marin County from Having an Annual Mammogram and/or a Monthly Self Breast Examination?</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p><b>Objectives/Goals</b> The rates of breast cancer in Marin County are amongst the highest in the nation. The purpose of this study was to determine what factors, if any, keep women in Marin County from having annual mammograms and/or monthly self breast examinations.</p> <p><b>Methods/Materials</b> I surveyed 80 randomly chosen Marin County women between the ages of 30 - 70, asking them to complete a brief and confidential survey which asks questions concerning their methods of breast cancer detection.</p> <p><b>Results</b> According to my research, the factor chosen by the most women which discouraged or kept them from having annual mammograms was that they did not feel old enough. The factor chosen by the most women as a factor that kept or discouraged them from performing monthly self breast examinations was forgetting to do so.</p> <p><b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> Contrary to my hypothesis which stated that women would refrain from mammograms and self breast exams because they did not feel at risk for breast cancer, I found that the discouraging factors depended greatly on age and that all were issues which could be overcome through awareness and education.</p>	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Factors that discourage Marin County women from mammograms and self breast examinations.	
<b>Help Received</b> Step Mom helped with transportation and Excel pie charts and various computer formatting questions.	