Breast Cancer Facts and Figures

The National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through action and advocacy. These statistics illustrate the need to stop this deadly disease.

**INCIDENCE**
Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the U.S. In 2020, there will be an estimated **276,480** new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in women; **2,620** cases diagnosed in men and an additional **48,530** cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) diagnosis in women. (ACS, 2020)

### Lifetime Risk
In the United States, a woman’s lifetime risk of being diagnosed with invasive breast cancer has increased since 1975. (ACS, 2020; DeSantis et al., 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1 in 8</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1 in 11</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
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**Incidence By Age**
Older women are much more likely to get invasive breast cancer than younger women. From 2012-2016, the median age of a breast cancer diagnosis was 62 years of age. (NCI, 2019)

**MORTALITY**
Breast cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer. (WHO, 2019)

In 2018 there were **626,679** deaths from breast cancer globally. (WHO, 2019)

In 2020, it is estimated that **42,170 women** and **520 men** will die of breast cancer. (ACS, 2020)

Progress in breast cancer mortality reduction has slowed in recent years. The mortality rate was decreasing by about 1.9% annually between 1998 and 2011. Annual declines have dropped to about 1.3% between 2011 and 2017. (ACS, 2020; DeSantis et al., 2019)

While the breast cancer mortality rate has declined, nearly **43,000 women and men continue to die each year** and this number continues to rise as the aging population grows.

**Mortality By Age**
From 2012-2016, the median age at death from breast cancer was 68 years of age. (NCI, 2019)

**RACIAL DISPARITIES**
Despite a similar incidence, mortality from breast cancer among black women is **40% higher** compared with white women. (ACS, 2020)

Every 13 minutes, a woman dies from breast cancer. (JANUARY 2020)
The diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) was rare before 1980. Widespread adoption of screening mammography has led to an 800% increase in the incidence of DCIS. However, screening has not resulted in a decrease in the rate of lethal disease (i.e., stage IV, metastatic disease) at diagnosis.

Overdiagnosis of breast cancer (i.e., cancer that would never become a problem) is estimated to occur in 22-31% of all screen-detected breast cancers. (Bleyer and Welch, 2012)

The current methods of treatment in use in the U.S. are:

- Surgery (Mastectomy)
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Hormonal Therapy
- Targeted

All women are at risk for breast cancer. Only 5-10% of women (5-20% of males) with breast cancer have inherited a mutation in a known breast cancer gene (e.g., BRCA1 and BRCA2). The majority of breast cancer cases do not involve these inherited mutations. (ACS, 2017-2018)

Factors that increase a woman’s risk of breast cancer include:

- Getting older
- Genetic mutations
- Long menstrual history
- Having dense breasts
- Personal history of breast cancer or certain non-cancerous breast diseases
- Family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Previous treatment using radiation therapy
- Never having children
- Being over 30 years at first full-term pregnancy
- Recent use of hormonal contraceptives or high natural levels of sex hormones
- Use of combined post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy
- Being overweight or obese after menopause
- Not being physically active
- Drinking alcohol (ACS, 2020, CDC, 2019)

As of 2019, there were an estimated 3.8 million individuals living with a history of breast cancer in the United States. (DeSantis et al., 2019)

The number of women living with metastatic breast cancer in the United States:

In 2017–155,000
By 2020–168,292
(Mariotto et al., 2017)

An estimated 20% to 30% of women diagnosed, treated, and declared free of disease for local or regional invasive breast cancer will have a recurrence. (Saphner et al., 1996; Harris et al., 2000; Colleoni et al., 2016)

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