Breast Cancer Facts & Figures

The National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through action and advocacy. Following are a few statistics that speak to the need to end this deadly disease.

Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the U.S. (ACS, 2016)

**Estimated chance** that a woman in the U.S. develops invasive breast cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Chance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
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(SEEER, 2015)

**Incidence Rates**

From 2003-2012, breast cancer incidence rates remained stable in white women and increased by 0.3% per year in black women. Incidence of in situ breast cancer remained stable for all women during this same time period. (ACS, 2016)

**New Cases**

In 2016, it is estimated that **246,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer** will be diagnosed among U.S. women and approximately 2,600 new cases among U.S. men. In addition to invasive cancers, **61,000 new cases of in situ breast cancer** will be diagnosed among women in the U.S. in 2016. (ACS, 2016)

**History**

In 2014, in the United States there were approximately **3,131,440 women alive who have a history of breast cancer.** (ACS, 2015-2016)

**Mortality**

More than **1,400 Women will die each day from breast cancer.**

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer. Approximately 40,450 women and 440 men will die from the disease in 2016. (ACS, 2016)

Mortality from breast cancer has declined faster for women under the age of 50 (by 3.0% annually from 2006-2010), regardless of race/ethnicity. (ACS, 2013-2014)

Between 1990 and 2011, the cancer mortality rate for women ages 50 and over declined by 1.9% annually. (SEER, 2014)

**This year, we will lose more than 522,000 women worldwide to breast cancer.**

(GloboCan, 2012)

Racial Disparities

Combining all age groups, white (non-Hispanic) women are more likely to develop breast cancer than black women.

However, black women are more likely to die of breast cancer than white women.
All women are at risk for breast cancer. Only 5-10% of those with breast cancer have inherited a mutation in the known breast cancer genes (BRCA1 and BRCA2) and 90-95% of breast cancer cases do not involve these inherited mutations. (ACS, 2015-2016)

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

- Older Age
- Family History of Breast or Ovarian Cancer
- Breast Density
- Genetic Factors
- Ionizing Radiation
- Long Menstrual History
- Nulliparity (Having No Children)
- Use of Combined Postmenopausal Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)
- Postmenopausal Obesity
- Alcohol Consumption
- Older than 30 Years of Age at First Full-Term Pregnancy

(ACS, 2016)

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

- Breast-Feeding
- Physical Activity / Exercise
- (ACS, 2016)

### Screening

Mammography screening does not prevent or cure breast cancer. It may detect the disease before symptoms occur. It has not led to a significant decline in the incidence of late stage disease. It may also lead to over diagnosis and over treatment. (Bleyer and Welch, 2012)

Overdiagnosis of breast cancer from mammography screening means many women become breast cancer patients and survivors and yet there has been a relatively small impact on the number of women dying from breast cancer. (HG Welch, JNCI 2010)

The diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) was relatively rare before the early 1980s and the widespread use of mammography. Today, approximately one woman is diagnosed with DCIS for every four women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.*

Mammography screening has led to a dramatic increase in the incidence DCIS, which has increased 800% from before widespread mammography started (early 70s) to three decades later whereas the incidence of distant disease (metastatic) changed 0%.**

*(Allegra et al, 2010)  ** (Bleyer and Welch, 2012)

### Treatment

The current methods of treatment in use in the US are:

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

(ACS, 2016)