Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the U.S. In 2019, there will be 271,270 new cases of invasive breast cancer (2,670 in males and 268,600 in females), and an additional 62,930 cases of carcinoma in situ of the female breast. (ACS, 2019)

**Lifetime Risk**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lifetime Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1 in 11 (9.09%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1 in 8 (12.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Incidence By Age**

Older women are much more likely to get invasive breast cancer than younger women. From 2011-2015, the median age of a breast cancer diagnosis was 62 years of age. (NCI, 2019)

**Mortality**

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer.

In 2019, it is estimated that 41,760 women and 500 men will die of breast cancer. (ACS, 2019)

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. (DeSantis et al., 2019)

While the breast cancer mortality rate has declined, over 42,000 women and men continue to die each year and this number continues to rise as the aging population grows.

**Mortality By Age**

From 2011-2015, 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, 2019)
RECURRENT

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.

PREVALENCE

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

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

In 2017 — 155,000
By 2020 — 168,292

RISK FACTORS

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.

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
- Use of combined post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy
- Being overweight or obese after menopause
- Not being physically active
- Drinking alcohol

DCIS AND SCREENING

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.

TREATMENT

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

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