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.

**Mortality**

Mortality from breast cancer has declined faster for women under the age of 50 (by 3.1% annually from 1990-2010), regardless of race/ethnicity. (ACS, 2013-2014)

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer. Approximately 40,000 women and 430 men in the US will die from the disease in 2014. (ACS, 2014)

Between 1990 and 2010, the cancer mortality rate for women of all races combined declined by 1.9% annually. (ACS, 2013-2014)

**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.

From 2003-2009, approximately 90.3% of women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer were still living five years after getting the disease.

Among black women, approximately 79.1% were still living five years after getting the disease. (SEER, 2012)

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**INCIDENCE**

On January 1, 2010, in the United States there were approximately 2,829,041 women alive who had a history of breast cancer. (SEER, 2013)

Estimated chance that a woman in the US develops invasive breast cancer during her lifetime, according to the National Cancer Institute (SEIGEL 2013):

12.5% (in 2013) > 9.09% (in 1975)

In 2014, it is estimated that 232,670 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among US women...

And approximately 2,360 new cases among US men.

In addition to invasive cancers, 62,570 new cases of in situ breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the US in 2014, approximately 51,933 of which will be ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) (ACS, 2014)

**Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the US. (ACS, 2014)**

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**Inclusion of Other Cancers**

Breast 29%
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma 4%
Melanoma 4%
Thyroid 6%
Uterine 6%
Colon & Rectum 8%
Lung 13%

All Other Cancers 18%
The current methods of treatment in use in the US are:

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

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 2013-2014; NCI 2006)

Factors that decrease a woman’s risk of breast cancer include (SEER, 2012):

- Breast-Feeding
- Physical Activity (Exercise)

Factors that increase a woman’s risk of breast cancer include (SEER, 2012):

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

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)

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. (Allegra et al, 2010) 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%. (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)

To see detailed references and to learn more about NRCC, please go to: BreastCancerDeadline2020.org/BCFactsFigures