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.

### Incidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated chance</th>
<th>Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the U.S. (ACS, 2017)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2016</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In 1975</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
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<td>(SEER, 2016)</td>
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**Incidence Rates**

From 2004-2013, breast cancer incidence rates remained stable in white women and increased by 2% per year among women other than white or black and by 0.5% per year in black women. (SEER, 2016)

**New Cases**

In 2017, it is estimated that 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among U.S. women and approximately 2,470 new cases among U.S. men. In addition to invasive cancers, 63,410 new cases of in situ breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the U.S. in 2017. (ACS, 2017)

**History**

In 2016, in the United States there were approximately 3,560,570 women alive who have a history of breast cancer. (ACS, 2016-2017)

### 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 40,610 women and 460 men will die from the disease in 2017. (ACS, 2017)

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

Overall mortality from breast cancer has decreased in both younger and older women, although since 2007, mortality has been level among women younger than 50. (ACS, 2015-2016)

**Between 1990 and 2013, the cancer mortality has been declining on average by 1.9% annually.** (SEER, 2016)

**Black women are more likely to die of breast cancer than white women.**

Breast cancer mortality is 40% higher among black women compared with white women. (MMWR, 2016)

**Racial Disparities**

- Black women are more likely to die of breast cancer than white women.
- Breast cancer mortality is 40% higher among black women compared with 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)

### Risk Factors

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

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

- Breast-Feeding
- Physical Activity / Exercise

##### Age

Older women are much more likely to get breast cancer than younger women. From 2009-2013, the median age for a breast cancer diagnosis was 62 years of age. (SEER, 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)

### Treatment

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

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

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%.**