

Key Messages About Breast Cancer

- ◆ Breast cancer knows no boundaries—be it age, gender, socio-economic status or geographic location.
- ◆ The most common risk factors for breast cancer are being female and getting older.
- ◆ Breast cancer affects more than just the patient—co-survivors (friends, family and co-workers) need support too.
- ◆ Making healthy lifestyle choices may reduce your risk of breast cancer.

Breast Cancer in the U.S.

Incidence (new cases)

- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. accounting for 30 percent of newly diagnosed cancers in the U.S.^{9p10}
- ◆ In 2017, about 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and 2,470 cases will be diagnosed in men in the U.S.^{9p4}
- ◆ Every 2 minutes, one case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman in the U.S.
 $365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}$
 $525,600 / 252,710^{9p4} \text{ cases diagnosed/yr} = 2.0798 = 2$
Note: The numbers do not change significantly when talking about women alone or men and women combined.
- ◆ One in 8 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.^{1p4}
- ◆ When considering all ages together, overall breast cancer incidence among white women is slightly higher than among black women.⁶ However, black women have a higher breast cancer incidence rate than white women before age 40.^{1p4}
- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Hispanic women in the U.S.^{5p8}
- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S.^{4p27}
- ◆ The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in all women in the U.S. is 62,
 - The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in white women in the U.S. is 63.
 - The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in black women in the U.S. is 59.

Prevalence (number of people with a disease)

- ◆ In the U.S., there are more than 154,000 people currently living with metastatic breast cancer.¹⁰

Mortality (deaths)

- ◆ Breast cancer is the 2nd most common cause of cancer death for all women in the U.S.^{9p10} Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women in the U.S.^{9p10}
- ◆ However, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death for women 20-39 in the U.S.⁷
- ◆ In 2017, about 40,610 women and 460 men are expected to die from cancer in the U.S.^{9p4}

Breast Cancer in the U.S. (mortality continued)

- ◆ Every 13 minutes, one woman in the U.S. will lose her life to breast cancer.
365 days/yr X 24 hr/day X 60 min/hr = 525,600 minutes in each year
 $525,600 / 40,610^{9p10}$ women die/yr = 12.94 = 13
Note: The numbers do not change significantly when talking about women alone or men and women combined.
- ◆ Even though black women have a higher incidence rate of breast cancer before age 40 they are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age.^{1p4}
- ◆ Early detection and effective treatment have resulted in a 39 percent decline in breast cancer mortality in the U.S. between 1989-2015.^{1p8}
- ◆ Breast cancer mortality is nearly 42 percent higher in black women than in white women.⁶ **Note:** To make this statement more evergreen and perhaps easier to recall, it is acceptable to say “mortality was more than 40 percent...etc.”
- ◆ Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women in the U.S.^{5p8}
- ◆ Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S.,^{4p27} second only to lung cancer.^{4p28}

Survival

- ◆ Currently there are more than 3.5 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.^{11p6}

Screening

- ◆ In the U.S., white, and black women 40 years of age and older reported similar numbers for having a mammogram in the past two years (69 percent and 65 percent respectively); however, in women of other racial/ethnic groups, mammography usage is slightly lower: 61 percent in Hispanic/Latina women, 60 percent in American Indian and Alaska Native women and 59 percent in Asian-American women.^{1p21}
- ◆ Among women 40 years of age and older, mammography prevalence increased from 29 percent in 1987 to 70 percent in 2000, and has since gradually declined.^{1p22}
- ◆ Women who have less than a high school education, who have no health insurance coverage, or who are recent immigrants to the US are least likely to have had a recent mammogram.^{1p22}

Breast Cancer Around the World

- ◆ Worldwide, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in women.^{2p11}
- ◆ Every 19 seconds, somewhere in the world, a case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman.
 $365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year} \times 60 \text{ seconds in a minute} = 31,536,000 \text{ seconds in a year. } 31,536,000 \text{ secs} / 1,670,000 \text{ new cancer cases/yr} = 18.8 = 19 \text{ seconds}$
- ◆ About 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed around the world in 2012 (most recent data available) which is 25 percent of all cancers diagnosed.³

Breast Cancer Around the World (continued)

- ◆ An estimated 522,000 breast cancer deaths occurred around the world in 2012 (most recent data available).³
- ◆ At the current rate, it is predicted that in 2035, 846,587 breast cancer deaths could occur around the world.³
- ◆ Every 60 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.
Divide the number of seconds in a year (31,536,000) by the number of breast cancer deaths/year worldwide (522,000)³ = 60 seconds (60.4730).
- ◆ Today, there are more than 6 million breast cancer survivors in the world.¹²

Note: The terms African-American, black, Hispanic, white and Asian are used in different statements listed above. These are the terms that were used in these references that informed the statements.

Citations:

- ¹ [Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2017-2018, ACS](#)
- ² [Global Cancer Facts & Figures 3rd edition, ACS](#)
- ³ [Globocan, 2012](#)
- ⁴ [Cancer Facts & Figures, 2016, ACS](#)
- ⁵ [Cancer Facts & Figures for Hispanics/Latinos, 2015-2017, ACS](#)
- ⁶ [SEER, 2013](#)
- ⁷ [Wiley Online Library, 2017](#)
- ⁸ [Cancer Facts and Figures for African-Americans, 2016-2018, ACS](#)
- ⁹ [Cancer Facts and Figures, 2017, ACS](#)
- ¹⁰ [Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, May 2017](#)
- ¹¹ [Cancer Treatment & Survivorship Facts & Figures 2016-2017](#)
- ¹² [Globocan.iarc, 2012](#)