Quick Guide for the Most Commonly Used Breast Cancer Statements

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.\(^9\)^\(^{10}\)
♦ 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.\(^9\)^\(^{10}\)
♦ Every 2 minutes, one case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman in the U.S.

\[
\text{365 days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}
\]

\[
\frac{525,600}{252,710} = 2.0798 \approx 2
\]

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.\(^1\)^\(^4\)
♦ 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.\(^5\)^\(^4\)
♦ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Hispanic women in the U.S.\(^5\)^\(^8\)
♦ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S.\(^4\)^\(^{27}\)
♦ 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.\(^9\)^\(^{10}\) Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women in the U.S.\(^9\)^\(^{10}\)
♦ 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.\(^9\)^\(^{10}\)
Breast Cancer in the U.S. (mortality continued)

♦ Every 13 minutes, one woman in the U.S. will lose her life to breast cancer.

\[
\text{365 days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}
\frac{525,600}{40,610.9 \text{ women die/yr}} = 12.94 = 13
\]

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.\(^{1p6}\)

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.

\[
\text{365 days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}
\frac{525,600}{1,670,000 \text{ new cancer cases/yr}} = 18.8 = 19 \text{ seconds}
\]

♦ 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.\(^{5}\)
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:
2. GlobalCancerFacts & Figures 3rd edition, ACS
6. SEER, 2013
7. WileyOnlineLibrary, 2017
10. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, May 2017