

Although rare, young women can get breast cancer. Young women diagnosed with breast cancer face issues that may differ from older women. These issues may include early menopause, loss of fertility, pregnancy after treatment, the ability to breastfeed, overall higher stage of breast cancer at diagnosis and poorer outcomes and more. See more here:

- [Age and Breast Cancer](#)
- [Unique Issues for Young Women with Breast Cancer](#)
- [Komen Educational Materials for Younger Women](#)

## Incidence

- ◆ While it is rare, young women under age 40 can develop breast cancer. In the U.S. fewer than 5 percent of all new breast cancer cases occur in women under age 40.<sup>4p1</sup>
- ◆ In 2017, 11,160 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed among women under age 40 in the U.S. and about 990 breast cancer deaths in young women are expected.<sup>4p1</sup>
- ◆ Among women younger than age 50 in the U.S., incidence rates have slowly increased (0.2 percent per year) since the mid-1990s.<sup>4p8</sup>

## Age Specific Probabilities of Developing Invasive Female Breast Cancer<sup>4p4</sup>

**If Current Age is:**                      **Probability of developing breast cancer in the next 10 years is:**                      **or 1 in:**

20	0.1%	1,567
30	0.5%	220
40	1.5%	68
50	2.3%	43
60	3.4%	29
70	3.9%	26
<b>Lifetime Risk</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>8</b>

## Mortality

- ◆ Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death (death from any type of cancer) among women ages 20 to 39.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Breast cancers in younger women are more likely to be fast-growing, higher grade and hormone receptor-negative, making the need for chemotherapy more likely.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Breast Cancer Facts & Figures](#) 2015-2016, ACS

<sup>2</sup> [Komen.org](#), Unique Issues for Young Women with Breast Cancer

<sup>3</sup> [Wiley Online Library](#), 2017 (Table 7)

<sup>4</sup> [Breast Cancer Facts & Figures](#) 2017-2018