

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.^{9p4}
- ◆ 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 45.^{8p10}
- ◆ 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 61.
 - The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in black women in the U.S. is 58.^{1p4}

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.^{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 breast cancer in the U.S.^{9p4}
- ◆ Every 13 minutes, one woman in the U.S. will lose her life to breast cancer.
 $365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}$
 $525,600 / 40,610^{9p10} \text{ women die/yr} = 12.94 = 13$
Note: The numbers do not change significantly when talking about women alone or men and women combined.

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 45 they are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age.^{1 p4}
- ◆ Early detection and effective treatment have resulted in a 38 percent decline in breast cancer mortality in the U.S. between 1989-2014.^{9 p10}
- ◆ In 2013 (most recent data available), breast cancer mortality was 39 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 about 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^{4p27} second only to lung cancer.^{4 p 28}

Survival

- ◆ Currently there are more than 3.1 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.^{1p4}
Note: To make this statement more evergreen and perhaps easier to recall, it is acceptable to say “more than 3 million...etc.”

Screening

- ◆ In the U.S., white, black and Asian-American women 45 years of age and older reported similar numbers for having a mammogram in the past two years (69 percent, 70 percent and 69 percent respectively); however, in women of other racial/ethnic groups, mammography usage is slightly lower: 64 percent in Hispanic/Latina women, and 61 percent in American Indian and Alaska Native women.^{1 p 19}

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 days/yr X 24 hr/day X 60 min/hr = 525,600 minutes in each year x 60 seconds in a minute = 31,536,000 seconds in a year. 31,536,000secs/1,670,000 new cancer cases/yr = 18.8 = 19 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.³

Note: The terms African-American, black, Hispanic, white and Asian re 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 2015-2016 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](#)