Breast Cancer Facts & Figures

On January 1, 2011, in the United States there were approximately 2,899,726 women alive who had a history of breast cancer. (SEER, 2014)

Estimated chance that a woman in the US develops invasive breast cancer during her lifetime, according to the National Cancer Institute (SEIGEL, 2013):

12.5% > 9.09% (in 2013) (in 1975)

In 2015, it is estimated that 231,840 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among US women...

And approximately 2,350 new cases among US men.

In addition to invasive cancers, 60,290 new cases of in situ breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the US in 2015, approximately 50,041 of which will be ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) (ACS, 2015)

Mortality from breast cancer has declined faster for women under the age of 50 (by 3.0% annually from 2006-2010), regardless of race/ethnicity. (ACS, 2013-2014)

Between 1990 and 2011, the cancer mortality rate for women ages 50 and over declined by 1.9% annually. (SEER, 2014)

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, after lung cancer. Approximately 40,290 women and 440 men will die from the disease in 2015. (ACS, 2015)

From 2007-2011, breast cancer incidence rates remained stable in white women and increased by 0.3% per year in black women. Incidence of in situ breast cancer remained stable for all women during this same time period. (SEER, 2014)

Excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the US. (ACS, 2015)

Globocan, 2012) This year, we will lose more than 522,000 women worldwide to breast cancer. That’s more than 1,400 women each day.
New Cases of Invasive Breast Cancer

Breast Cancer Rate (per 100,000 females)

The current methods of treatment in use in the US are:
- Hormonal Therapy
- Targeted Therapy
- Radiation
- Chemotherapy
- Surgery (Mastectomy & Lumpectomy)

Factors that decrease a woman’s risk of breast cancer include (ACS, 2015):
- Breast-Feeding
- Physical Activity (Exercise)

Factors that increase a woman’s risk of breast cancer include (ACS, 2015):
- Family History of Breast or Ovarian Cancer
- Older Age
- Breast Density
- Genetic Factors
- Use of Combined Postmenopausal Hormone Replacement Therapy (HT)
- Ionizing Radiation
- Postmenopausal Obesity
- Alcohol Consumption
- Nulliparity (Having No Children)
- Older than 30 years of age at first full-term pregnancy
- Long Menstrual History

Factors that decrease a woman’s risk of breast cancer include (ACS, 2015):
- Older than 30 years of age at first full-term pregnancy
- Nulliparity (Having No Children)
- Long Menstrual History
- Use of Combined Postmenopausal Hormone Replacement Therapy (HT)
- Ionizing Radiation
- Postmenopausal Obesity
- Alcohol Consumption
- Breast Density
- Genetic Factors

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)

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)

The impact of some risk factors may vary for different races. According to results of the 4-Corners Breast Cancer Study, Hispanic women with breast cancer were more likely than white women with breast cancer to have characteristics associated with a lower risk of breast cancer, such as younger age at first birth, having more children, less hormone use, and less alcohol consumption. (Hines et al, 2010)

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)

To see detailed references and to learn more about NBCC, please go to: BreastCancerDeadline2020.org/BCFactsFigures