

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 growing 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 United States

Incidence

- ◆ Except for skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S.^{8, p.9}; it accounts for nearly 1 in 3 cancers diagnosed in the U.S.^{1, p.4}
- ◆ Each year, more than 200,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and more than 2,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in men in the U.S.^{8 p.9}
- ◆ Every two minutes, one case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman in the U.S.^{1, p.4}
- ◆ Every 13 minutes, one woman in the U.S. will lose her life to breast cancer.^{1, p.4}
- ◆ One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.^{1, p.4}
- ◆ Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Hispanic women in the U.S.^{10.p.6}
- ◆ African-American women in the U.S. are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with breast cancer before age 40 and are more likely to be diagnosed with larger tumors than white women.^{1, p.8}
- ◆ The median age for a breast cancer diagnosis in White women in the U.S. is 61, but for African-American women it is 57.^{3, p.10}
- ◆ White women have a higher incidence of breast cancer than African-American women, yet African-American women are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age.^{1, p.4}

Mortality

- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death for women 40-59 in the U.S.,² and is 2nd only to lung cancer in cancer deaths among all women in the U.S.^{8 p.9}
- ◆ More than 40,000 women and more than 400 men will die from breast cancer each year in the U.S.^{8, p.9}
- ◆ Early detection and effective treatment have resulted in a 34 percent decline in breast cancer mortality in the U.S. since 1990.^{1, p.9}
- ◆ At the current rate, about 5.8 million cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. over the next 25 years and 1 million people could die.^{8, p.10}
- ◆ Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women in the U.S.^{10, p.6}

- ◆ African-American women in the U.S. have a 44 percent higher death rate from breast cancer than white women.¹¹

Survival

- ◆ In 1980, the 5-year relative survival rate for women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer (cancer confined to the breast) was about 74 percent. Today, that number is 99 percent.^{1, p.10}
- ◆ There are more than three million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.^{9, p.4}

Screening

- ◆ In the U.S., white, African-American and American Indian/Alaskan Native women 40 years of age and older reported similar numbers for having a mammogram in the past two years (66 percent – 69 percent); however, in women of other racial/ethnic groups, mammography usage is lower: 64.4 percent in Hispanic women, and 61.9 percent in Asian women.^{7, p.38}
- ◆ Breast cancer is often detected at a more advanced stage in Hispanics than in non-Hispanic white women in the U.S. This difference has been largely attributed to lower use of mammography screening and longer intervals between mammograms, as well as the lack of timely follow-up of an abnormal mammogram.^{10, p.21}

Breast Cancer Around the World

- ◆ Worldwide, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in women.^{4, p.11}
- ◆ Every 19 seconds, somewhere in the world, a case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman.
- ◆ Every minute, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.
- ◆ It is estimated that nearly 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed around the world in 2012 (25 percent of all cancers).⁵
- ◆ An estimated 522,000 breast cancer deaths occurred around the world in 2012.⁵
- ◆ Since 2008, breast cancer incidence around the world has increased by more than 20 percent, while mortality has increased by 14 percent.⁵
- ◆ At the current rate, 13 million breast cancer deaths around the world will occur in the next 25 years.

¹ Breast Cancer [Facts and Figures 2013-2014](#) ACS

² SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975-2008-table 4.12- http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2008/results_single/sect_04_table.12.pdf

³ [Cancer Facts and Figures for African Americans, 2013-2014](#)

⁴ [American Cancer Society, Global Cancer Facts & Figures 2nd edition](#)

⁵ [Globocan 2012- http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx](http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx)

⁶ Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, The Challenge Ahead: Progress and Setbacks in Breast and Cervical Cancer, September 2011. Also see: *Breast and cervical cancer in 187 countries between 1980 and 2010: a systematic analysis.* www.thelancet.com/September15,2011

⁷ [Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures 2013](#), ACS

⁸ [Cancer Facts and Figures 2015](#), ACS

⁹ [Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Statistics, 2014](#)

¹⁰ [Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos 2012-2014](#), ACS

¹¹ SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2011. National Cancer Institute: Bethesda, MD, http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2011/, 2014