

## **In General**

- Breast cancer is a random and deadly disease.
- The most common risk factors for breast cancer are being female and getting older.
- With respect to age, race, religion and socioeconomic status, breast cancer knows no boundaries.
- Breast cancer affects everyone, not just the person diagnosed. Co-survivors, including family, friends and co-workers can feel the effects too.

## **Breast Cancer Globally**

- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and is the leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide.<sup>6</sup>
- Every 19 seconds, somewhere around the world a case of breast cancer is diagnosed among women.<sup>7</sup>
- Every 74 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.<sup>7</sup>
- More than 1.6 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed among women around the world in 2010. (At this rate, 41 million cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed during the next 25 years.)<sup>7</sup>
- Approximately 425,000 women around the world died from the disease in 2010. (At this rate, 10.6 million women will die from breast cancer during the next 25 years.)<sup>7</sup>
- In the past 25 years, incidence rates have risen about 30 percent in westernized countries. This increase may be due to changes in reproductive patterns and increased screening.<sup>6</sup>
- In the past 25 years, mortality rates have been stable or decreasing in westernized countries. This reduction is attributed to early detection through mammography and improved treatment.<sup>6</sup>

## **Breast Cancer in the United States**

- One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women age 40-50 years in the U.S..<sup>5</sup>
- Breast cancer is second only to lung cancer in cancer deaths among women in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- The five-year relative survival rate for all women with breast cancer found at a local stage (cancer that has not spread) in the U.S. is 99 percent, 84 percent for regional disease and 23 percent for distant stage disease.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2012, an estimated 226,870 cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women and 2,190 cases among men in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>
- An estimated 39,510 women and 410 men will die from breast cancer in the U.S. in 2012.<sup>4</sup>
- A case of breast cancer is diagnosed among women every two minutes, and a woman dies of breast cancer every 13 minutes in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>
- There are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors alive in the U.S. today, the largest group of cancer survivors in the country.<sup>8</sup>
- Approximately 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers in the U.S. are due to inherited BRCA1 or BRCA 2 genetic mutations (less than 1 percent of the general population).<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 95 percent of all breast cancers in the U.S. occur in women 40 years of age and older.<sup>1</sup>
- Recent studies suggest that many women in the U.S. are not following recommended guidelines for mammography screening by having their first screening later than recommended, not having one at recommended intervals or not receiving appropriate and timely follow-up of positive screening results. This may lead to more advanced tumor size and stage at diagnosis.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2011-2012 ACS

<sup>2</sup> Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures 2011, ACS

<sup>3</sup> NCI Website- <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/breast.html#prevalence>

<sup>4</sup> Cancer Facts and Figures 2012, ACS

<sup>5</sup> SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975-2008-table 4.12- [http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2008/results\\_single/sect\\_04\\_table.12.pdf](http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2008/results_single/sect_04_table.12.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> American Cancer Society, Global Cancer Facts & Figures 2nd edition

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.thelancet.com) September 15, 2011

<sup>8</sup> Siegel, Rebecca, et al. Cancer treatment and survivorship statistics, 2012, [CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21149/full), June, 14, 2012. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21149/full>