

Key Statistics about Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancer. About one in eight women in the U.S. (12 percent) will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime.

The American Cancer Society's estimates for breast cancer in the United States for 2014 are:

- About 232,679 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women.
- About 62,570 new cases of carcinoma in situ (CIS) will be diagnosed. CIS is non-invasive and is the earliest form of breast cancer.
- About 40,000 women will die from breast cancer.

After increasing for more than two decades, female breast cancer incidence rates began decreasing in 2000, then dropped by about seven percent from 2002 to 2003. This large decrease was thought to be due to the decline in use of hormone therapy after menopause that occurred after the results of the Women's Health Initiative were published in 2002. This study linked the use of hormone therapy to an increased risk of breast cancer and heart disease. Incidence rates have been stable in recent years.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women, exceeded only by lung cancer. The chance that breast cancer will be responsible for a woman's death is about one in 36 (about three percent). Death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1989, with larger decreases in women younger than 50. These decreases are believed to be the result of earlier detection through screening and increased awareness, as well as improved treatment.

At this time there are more than 2.8 million breast cancer survivors in the United States. This number includes women still being treated and those who have completed treatment.

All women should follow the American Cancer Society's guidelines for early detection. Early detection will not prevent breast cancer, but it can help find it when the likelihood of successful treatment is greatest.

Source: www.cancer.org

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