

Current breast cancer statistics in Australia



Incidence

- In 2017, it is estimated that 17,586 women and 144 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- On average, 48 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer every day.
- The number of women and men being diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia is increasing; however the number of deaths from breast cancer is decreasing.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Australian women and accounts for 28.3% of all new cancers in Australian women in 2017.
- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85 is 1 in 8 for women and 1 in 631 for men.
- Breast cancer can occur in younger women. It is estimated that 841 women between the ages of 20 and 39 will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017. This accounts for 4.7% of all breast cancers diagnosed in Australia.

Survival

- Australia has one of the best breast cancer survival rates in the world.
- The chance of surviving at least five years (five year relative survival) has increased from 72% in 1982-1987 to 90% in 2017, where it currently remains.
- The chance of surviving at least ten years (ten year relative survival) is now 83%.
- Increasing survival is due to earlier diagnosis through screening and improved treatments.
- As at the end of 2012, it is estimated there are over 190,000 women alive who had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the previous 30 years.
- Breast cancers in younger (pre-menopausal) women have poorer survival outcomes compared with older women.
- There are sub-groups of the population who have lower survival than others including women living in rural and remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Mortality

- Breast cancer accounts for 15.5% of all cancer deaths in Australian women and is currently the second leading cause of cancer death in Australian women after lung cancer.
- It is estimated that 3,087 women and 28 men will die from breast cancer in 2017. This means that on average, eight people died from breast cancer every day.

Risk

- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer increases with age.
- Approximately 78% of new cases of breast cancer develop in women over the age of 50.
- The average age of the first diagnosis of breast cancer in women is 61.
- Approximately 5-10% of breast cancers are due to a strong family history or genetic mutation, such as BRCA1 or BRCA2.

The future

- Given the ageing population, the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer is expected to increase.
- It is projected that 2018, 18,087 women and 148 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer.