

Current Statistics in Australian Breast Cancer



Breast cancer in 2015

- It is estimated that in 2015, 15,600 women and 145 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Approximately 42 women will be diagnosed each day in 2015.
- One in eight Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer by the time they turn 85.
- It is estimated that in 2020, 17,210 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women.

Breast cancer in different groups

- A woman's risk of breast cancer increases with age, with the majority of women diagnosed between 50 and 69 years of age.
- The mean age of diagnosis is 60.
- Approximately 5-10% of breast cancers are due to a known genetic mutation or a strong family history.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) women. However, ATSI women were significantly less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than non-ATSI women in 2004-2008.
- Women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups were found to have a relatively lower incidence of breast cancer than Australian-born women.
- The number of men diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia increased from 61 in 1982 to 113 in 2008.

Breast Cancer Survival

- The five year survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer has continued to increase.
- Between the periods 1982–1987 and 2006–2010, five year relative survival from breast cancer increased from 72% to 89%. Ten year relative survival is now 83%.
- Between the periods 1982-1987 and 2006-2010, five year survival increased from 70% to 91% for those aged 50-59 and from 72% to 93% for those aged 60-69.
- In 2008, there were 159,325 women alive who had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the previous 27 years.

Breast Cancer and Mortality

- The breast cancer mortality rate fell by 30% between 1994 and 2011.
- In 2012, 2,795 women lost their lives to breast cancer. This means that, on average, 7 women died from breast cancer every day.
- In 2012, 24 men died from breast cancer.
- It is estimated that 3,040 women and 25 men will lose their lives to breast cancer in 2015.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014. Cancer in Australia: an overview 2014. Cancer series no 90. Cat. No. CAN 88. Canberra: AIHW.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Cancer Australia 2012. Breast cancer in Australian: an overview. Cancer series no. 71. Cat. No. CAN 67. Canberra: AIHW.