

Current breast cancer statistics in Australia



Incidence

- In 2016, it is estimated that 15,930 women and 150 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- On average, 43 women 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.
- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85 is 1 in 8 for women and 1 in 838 for men.
- Breast cancer can occur in younger women. It is estimated that 795 women between the ages of 20 and 39 were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015. This accounts for 5% 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 2015.
- 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.
- It is estimated there are over 160,000 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.
- Approximately 3,040 women and 25 men died from breast cancer in 2015. 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 75% 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 60.
- 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 in 2020, 17,210 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. This means that 47 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer every day in 2020.