

Current breast cancer statistics in Australia



Incidence

- In 2019, it is estimated that 19,371 women and 164 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. This means that approximately 19,535 Australians will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019.
- On average, 53 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 will account for approximately 29 per cent of all new cancers in Australian women in 2019.
- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85 is 1 in 7 for women and 1 in 675 for men.

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 74.0 per cent in 1986-1990 to 90.8 per cent in 2011-2015.
- The chance of surviving at least 10 years (10-year relative survival) is 83 per cent.
- Increasing survival is due to earlier diagnosis through screening and improved treatments.
- It is estimated that, at the end of 2014, there were more than 212,299 women alive who had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the previous 33 years.
- Younger (pre-menopausal) women generally have poorer survival outcomes than older women.
- Other sub-groups of the population who have lower survival rates include women living in rural and remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men.

Mortality

- Breast cancer accounts for 14.0 per cent 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 3,058 women and 32 men will die from breast cancer in 2019.
- Approximately 3,090 Australians will die from breast cancer in 2019, an average of eight people every day.

Risk

- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer increases with age.
- Approximately 79 per cent of new cases of breast cancer are in women over the age of 50.
- The average age of first diagnosis of breast cancer in women is 61.
- Approximately 5-10 per cent 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 continue to increase each year.
- In 2020, an estimated 20,168 Australians will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- In 2021, an estimated 20,825 Australians will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Information and figures in this document are based on the latest national data and trends over time. Revised 1 Jan 2019.

Sources: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2018 Cancer Data in Australia; Canberra: AIHW.

<<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia/>>; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. *Cancer in Australia 2017*. Cancer series no 101. Cat. No. CAN 100. Canberra: AIHW; 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.