



Breast Cancer Statistics

- One in nine women is expected to develop breast cancer during her lifetime; one in 27 will die of it.¹
- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in Canadian women.²
- Breast cancer continues to lead in incidence among Canadian women, with more than twice as many new cases as lung cancer.¹
- Since 1988, breast cancer incidence rates have risen by 10% but death rates have dropped by 19%.²
- Breast, lung and colorectal cancers account for at least 50% of the new cancer cases in women.¹
- Incidence by age group:³
 - 22% of breast cancer cases occur in women under age 50
 - 48% of cases occur in women ages 50 to 69
 - 30% of cases occur in women age 70 and over
- Mortality by age group:³
 - 13% of breast cancer deaths occur in women under age 50
 - 36% of breast cancer deaths occur in women ages 50 to 69
 - 51% of breast cancer deaths occur in women ages 70 and over

Breast Cancer Estimates (2003)

- The Canadian Cancer Society estimated that 21,200 women would be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003 and 5,300 would die of it.²
 - It was estimated that on average, in 2003, 407 Canadian women would be diagnosed with breast cancer each week.²
 - It was estimated that on average, in 2003, 102 Canadian women would die of breast cancer each week.²

¹ National Cancer Institute of Canada: Canadian Cancer Statistics 2003

² Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca): Breast Cancer Stats

³ Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (www.cbcbf.org): Breast Cancer Facts

- It was estimated that in 2003, 140 men would be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40 would die of it.²
- In 2004, the most frequently diagnosed cancer for women will continue to be breast cancer, accounting for 30% of all cancer cases.³

Survival Rates

- Mortality rates from breast cancer are currently at their lowest since 1950.³
- The average five-year survival rate for women with breast cancer is 82%.³

Breast Cancer Beginnings

- There are two types of indicators of breast cancer:
 - **Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)** is a cancerous condition that sometimes becomes an invasive type of breast cancer (cancer that has spread from the duct into surrounding tissues).
 - **Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)** is cancer and a marker or indicator that identifies a woman as having an increased risk of developing invasive breast cancer (cancer that has spread into surrounding tissues). It is common for both breasts to be affected.

Breast Cancer Progression

- Changes that characterize the progression or spread of cancer into later stages may include but are not limited to:
 - growth of the tumour size
 - spreading to axillary lymph nodes (lymph nodes under the arm)
 - spreading to the lymph nodes within breast, or beneath the collar bone on the same side as the tumor.
 - spreading to tissues near the breast (the skin or chest wall, including the ribs and muscles in the chest)
 - spreading to other organs of the body, most often the bones, lungs, liver or brain (metastasis)

Treatments for Breast Cancer

The type and stage of the disease, including the patient's menopausal status, determine treatment of breast cancer. The standard treatments are surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy.

- **Conservative Breast Surgery**
 - Lumpectomy: removal of the lump in the breast and some of the tissue around it.
 - Partial or segmental mastectomy: removal of the cancer as well as some of the breast tissue around the tumour and the lining over the chest muscles below the tumour. The lymph nodes are usually removed as well.
- **Other surgery**
 - Total or simple mastectomy: Complete removal of the breast, many of the lymph nodes under the arm, the lining over the chest muscles, and sometimes part of the chest wall muscles
 - Radical mastectomy: removal of the breast, chest muscles, and all of the lymph nodes under the arm.
- **Radiation therapy:** using high-energy x-rays to kill cancer cells, shrink tumours and prevent spread.
- **Chemotherapy:** treatment with anti-cancer drugs given intravenously (injected into a vein) or by mouth. When used after surgery, chemotherapy (so-called adjuvant therapy) can significantly reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence.
- **Hormone therapy:** estrogen, a hormone produced by women's ovaries, promotes growth of some breast cancers which have detectable amounts of estrogen receptor protein. Several approaches to block the effect of estrogen or lower estrogen levels are used to treat breast cancer.