



### How common is **breast cancer**?

- ▶ Breast cancer is now the most common cancer in the UK.
- ▶ The lifetime risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer is 1 in 8 for women in the UK.
- ▶ In the UK in 2008 almost 47,700 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, that's around 130 women a day.
- ▶ 341 men in the UK were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008.
- ▶ Female breast cancer incidence rates in Great Britain have increased by more than 50% over the last twenty-five years.
- ▶ In the last ten years, female breast cancer incidence rates in the UK have increased by 3.6%.
- ▶ 8 in 10 breast cancers are diagnosed in women aged 50 and over.
- ▶ In the UK in 2007/2008 the NHS breast screening programmes detected more than 16,000 cases of breast cancer.
- ▶ Worldwide, around 1.38 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008.
- ▶ Breast cancer incidence rates vary considerably, with the highest rates in Western Europe and the lowest rates in Africa and Asia.
- ▶ In the European Union (EU-27) around 332,000 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in 2008.



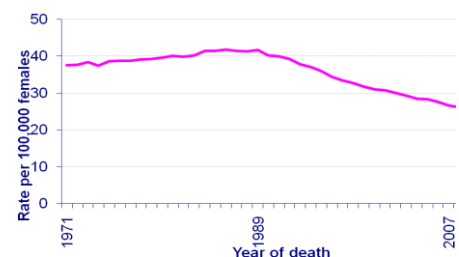
### How many people survive **breast cancer**?

- ▶ Breast cancer survival rates have been improving for forty years. More women are surviving breast cancer than ever before.
- ▶ In the 1970s around 5 out of 10 women with breast cancer survived the disease beyond five years. Now it's more than 8 out of 10.
- ▶ Women diagnosed with breast cancer are now twice as likely to survive their disease for at least ten years than those diagnosed forty years ago.
- ▶ More than three-quarters of women diagnosed with breast cancer now survive their disease for at least ten years or more.
- ▶ Almost 2 out of 3 women with breast cancer now survive their disease beyond 20 years.
- ▶ Breast cancer survival rates are significantly higher among women from the most affluent areas compared to women living in the most deprived areas.
- ▶ Breast cancer survival rates are better the earlier the cancer is diagnosed.
- ▶ Around 9 out of 10 of women diagnosed with stage I breast cancer survive the disease beyond five years. This drops to around 1 out of 10 diagnosed with stage IV.

### How many people die from **breast cancer**?

- ▶ In 2008 in the UK around 12,000 women and around 70 men died from breast cancer.
- ▶ Each year there are around 1,300 deaths from breast cancer in women under 50.
- ▶ Since peaking in the late 1980s breast cancer death rates have fallen more than a third.
- ▶ In the last ten years death rates for breast cancer have fallen by almost a fifth.
- ▶ In Britain breast cancer is now the second most common cause of death from cancer in women after lung cancer.

Breast cancer death rate in the UK



- ▶ More than half of breast cancer deaths are women aged over 70.
- ▶ In the European Union (EU-27), around 89,000 women died from breast cancer in 2008.
- ▶ Worldwide around 458,000 women died from breast cancer in 2008.

## What causes *breast cancer*?

- ▶ Women with a mother, sister or daughter diagnosed with breast cancer have almost double the risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer themselves.
- ▶ Risk increases with the number of first-degree relatives diagnosed with breast cancer, but even so, eight out of nine breast cancers occur in women without a family history of breast cancer.
- ▶ Obesity increases risk of postmenopausal breast cancer by up to 30%.
- ▶ Women currently using hormone replacement therapy (HRT) have a 66% increased risk of breast cancer.
- ▶ Use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) has fallen in the UK in recent years, which has been estimated to prevent 1,400 breast cancers annually in women aged 50-59.
- ▶ The risk of breast cancer in current users of oral contraceptives is increased by around a quarter.
- ▶ Drinking moderate amounts of alcohol increases the risk of breast cancer - as little as one alcoholic drink per day increases breast cancer risk by around 12%.
- ▶ A more active lifestyle reduces breast cancer risk.

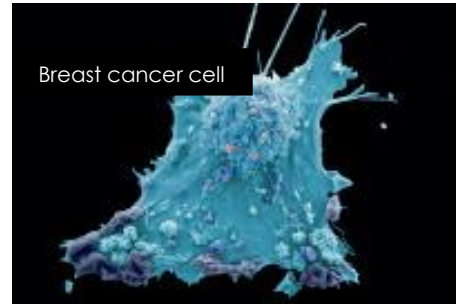


Image produced by the LRI EM Unit

Breast cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Number of new cases (2008)</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>47,693</b>	<b>48,034</b>
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.9	123.9	65.2
<b>Number of deaths (2008)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>12,047</b>	<b>12,116</b>
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.2	26.2	14.3
Five-year survival rate (for patients diagnosed 2001-2006, England)	-	82%	-
Ten-year survival rate (predicted survival for patients diagnosed 2007, England and Wales)	-	77%	-

\*age-standardised to the European population

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing [stats.team@cancer.org.uk](mailto:stats.team@cancer.org.uk).