



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).

### How common is breast cancer?

- Breast cancer is now the most common cancer in the UK.
- In 2007 in the UK almost 45,700 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, that's around 125 women a day.
- 277 men in the UK were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007.
- Female breast cancer incidence rates have increased by around 50% over the last twenty-five years.
- In the last ten years, female breast cancer incidence rates in the UK have increased by 5%.
- 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.
- The NHS breast screening programme in England saves an estimated 1,400 lives each year.
- Worldwide, more than a million women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year.
- Breast cancer incidence rates vary considerably, with the highest rates in North America and the lowest rates in Africa and Asia.



### How many people survive breast cancer?

- More women are surviving breast cancer than ever before.
- Almost 2 out of 3 women with breast cancer now survive their disease beyond 20 years.
- Breast cancer survival rates have been improving for thirty years.
- In the 1970s around 5 out of 10 breast cancer patients survived the disease beyond five years. Now it's 8 out of 10.
- 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.

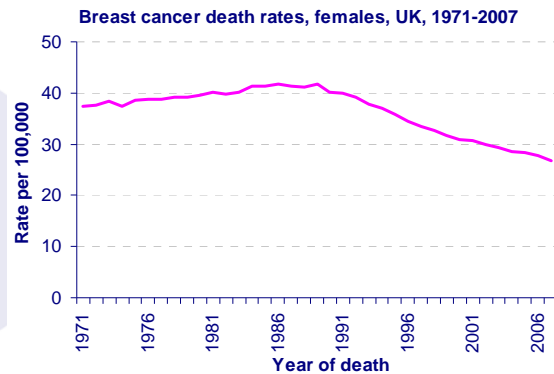
Breast cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases (2007)	277	45,695	45,972
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.7	120.2	63.3
Number of deaths (2008)	69	12,047	12,116
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.2	26.2	14.3
Five-year survival rate (for patients 2001-2006, England)	-	82%	-

\*age-standardised to the European population



## 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.
- More than half of breast cancer deaths are women aged over 70.
- 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.
- Breast cancer is now the second most common cause of death from cancer in women after lung.



## 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.