



## About Breast Cancer

### Breast Cancer Facts

- Breast cancer is a random and potentially deadly disease.
- The most significant risk factors for breast cancer are being female and getting older.
- With respect to age, race, religion and socioeconomic status, breast cancer knows no boundaries.
- Breast cancer typically strikes women during their most productive years, both professionally and personally.
- Breast cancer affects everyone, not just the person diagnosed. Co-survivors (family, friends and co-workers) feel the effects, too.
- Breast cancer doesn't affect women only. Men can be diagnosed with breast cancer, too.

### Breast Cancer in Tarrant County

- Since 2001, deaths from breast cancer have declined, even as the numbers of the population at risk have increased.
- The percentage of breast cancer in African Americans is higher than the statewide average in Tarrant County, as are rates in Tarrant County's foreign-born population.
- 47,000 women are projected to be without insurance in Tarrant County this year.
- Fear of diagnoses of a life-threatening illness without resources for treatment is one of the major barriers to getting mammograms for women in Tarrant County.
- For more information on breast cancer in Tarrant County, download our community profile at <http://www.komentarrant.org/understanding-breast-cancer/local-resources/our-community-need.html>.
- The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Tarrant County Affiliate is the top resource for information and education about breast cancer, as well as for breast-cancer survivors and their families. We provide support, community and high-quality information.
- Thanks to the work of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and Affiliates like Tarrant County, nearly 75 percent of women over 40 now receive regular mammograms, which is the single most



effective means of detecting breast cancer. In 1982, fewer than 30 percent of women over 40 received a clinical exam.

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### Breast Cancer in the United States

- One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women in the U.S. ages 40-59.
- Breast cancer is second only to lung cancer in cancer deaths among women in the U.S.
- The five-year survival rate for breast cancer, when caught early before it spreads beyond the breast, is now 98 percent (compared to 74 percent in 1982).
- An estimated 192,370 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the U.S. in 2009.
- An estimated 1,910 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in men in the U.S. in 2009.
- An estimated 40,170 women and 440 men will die from breast cancer in the U.S. in 2009.
- A woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes, and a woman dies of breast cancer every 13 minutes in the U.S.
- There are about 2.5 million breast cancer survivors alive in the U.S. today, the largest group of cancer survivors in the country.
- About 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers in the U.S. are due to inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 breast cancer genes (less than 1 percent of the general population).
- About 95 percent of all breast cancers in the U.S. occur in women 40 years of age and older.
- Recent studies suggest that many women are not following recommended guidelines for mammography screening by having their first screening later than recommended, not having one at recommended intervals or not receiving follow-up of positive screening results. This may lead to more advanced tumor size and stage at diagnosis.

### Breast Cancer Globally

- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and is the leading cause of cancer death among women worldwide.
- About 1.3 million women are diagnosed each year. (At this rate, 32.5 million women will be diagnosed during the next 25 years.)
- About 465,000 die from the disease each year. (At this rate, 11.6 million women will die from breast cancer during the next 25 years.)
- Somewhere in the world, a woman dies from breast cancer every 68 seconds.



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### Breast Cancer Globally (continued)

- In the past 25 years, incidence rates have risen approximately 30 percent in westernized countries. This increase may be due to changes in reproductive patterns and increased screening.
- Mortality rates have been stable or decreasing in some countries. This reduction in developed countries is attributed to early detection through mammography and improved treatment.
- The five-year survival rate for breast cancer now stands at 98 percent, compared to only 74 percent in 1982.
- The federal government now devotes more than \$900 annually to breast cancer research, treatment and prevention.
- Susan G. Komen for the Cure plans to invest \$2 billion over the next decade to fulfill its promise to find a cure for breast cancer.

### Sources

- American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts & Figures 2009
- American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures 2009
- [www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI\\_2\\_4\\_1X\\_What\\_are\\_the\\_key\\_statistics\\_for\\_breast\\_cancer\\_5.asp?sitearea](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_breast_cancer_5.asp?sitearea)
- [caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/58/2/71](http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/58/2/71)
- American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Facts & Figures 2007-2008
- American Cancer Society's Global Cancer Facts & Figures 2007, Revised: May 2009

***For more information on breast cancer, visit the "Understanding Breast Cancer" section at [www.komentarrant.org](http://www.komentarrant.org).***

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