

Although rare, young women can get breast cancer. Young women diagnosed with breast cancer face issues that may differ from older women. These issues may include early menopause, loss of fertility, pregnancy after treatment, the ability to breastfeed, overall higher stage of breast cancer at diagnosis and poorer outcomes and more. See more here:

- [Age and Breast Cancer](#)
- [Unique Issues for Young Women with Breast Cancer](#)
- [Young Women and Breast Cancer Facts for Life fact sheet](#)
- [Komen Educational Materials for Younger Women](#)

Incidence

- ◆ While it is rare, young women under age 40 can develop breast cancer. In the U.S. fewer than 5 percent of all new breast cancer cases occur in women under age 40.^{1 p2}
- ◆ In 2015, 10,500 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed among women under age 40 in the U.S. and about 1,010 breast cancer deaths in young women were expected.^{1 p.1}
- ◆ Among women younger than age 50 in the U.S., incidence rates were stable from 2008-2012.^{1 p7}

Age Specific Probabilities of Developing Invasive Female Breast Cancer^{1, p.17}

If Current Age is: **Probability of developing breast cancer in the next 10 years is:** **or 1 in:**

20	0.1%	1,674
30	0.4%	225
40	1.4%	69
50	2.3%	44
60	3.5%	29
70	3.9%	26
Lifetime Risk	12.3%	8

Mortality

- ◆ Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death (death from any type of cancer) among women ages 20 to 59.³
- ◆ Since 2007, breast cancer death rates have been stable among women younger than 50.^{1, p. 8}
- ◆ Breast cancers in younger women are more likely to be fast-growing, higher grade and hormone receptor-negative; making the need for chemotherapy more likely.²

¹ [Breast Cancer Facts & Figures](#) 2015-2016, ACS

² Partridge AH, Goldhirsch A, Gelber S, Gelber RD. Chapter 85: *Breast Cancer in Younger Women*, in Harris JR, Lippman ME, Morrow M, Osborne CK. *Diseases of the Breast*, 5th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2014.

³ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21254/epdf> page 19 (Table 9)