

## Key Messages About Breast Cancer

- ◆ Breast cancer knows no boundaries- be it age, gender, socio-economic status or geographic location.
- ◆ The most common risk factors for breast cancer are being female and getting older.
- ◆ Breast cancer affects more than just the patient — co-survivors (friends, family and co-workers) need support too.
- ◆ Making healthy lifestyle choices may reduce your risk of breast cancer.

## Breast Cancer in the U.S.

### Incidence

- ◆ Except for skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. accounting for 29 percent of newly diagnosed cancers in the U.S.<sup>1 p4</sup>
- ◆ In 2016, 246,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and 2,600 cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in men in the U.S.<sup>4 p9</sup>
- ◆ At the current rate, about 6.2 million cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. over the next 25 years.  

$$246,660 + 2,600 = 249,260^{4 p9} \text{ new cases of invasive breast cancer} \times 25 \text{ years} = 6,231,500 = 6.2$$
- ◆ Every 2 minutes, one case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman in the U.S.  

$$365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}$$

$$525,600 / 246,660^{4 p9} \text{ cases diagnosed/yr} = 2.1308 = 2$$
- ◆ One in 8 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.<sup>1 p4</sup>
- ◆ When considering all ages together, incidence rates (new cases) for white and black women in the U.S. are becoming more similar.<sup>4 p7</sup>
- ◆ African-American women have a higher incidence of breast cancer than white women before age 45.<sup>1 p4</sup>
- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Hispanic women in the U.S.<sup>5 p8</sup>
- ◆ Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women in the U.S.<sup>4 p27</sup>
- ◆ The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in all women in the U.S. is 62,
  - The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in white women in the U.S. is 61.
  - The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis in black women in the U.S. is 58.<sup>1 p4</sup>

## Breast Cancer in the U.S.

### Mortality

- ◆ Breast cancer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cause of cancer death for women in the U.S. <sup>4 p9</sup>
- ◆ However, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death for women 20-59 in the U.S. <sup>7</sup>
- ◆ In 2016, 40,450 women and 440 men are expected to die from breast cancer in the U.S. <sup>4 p9</sup>
- ◆ At the current rate, over the next 25 years, 1 million people could die from breast cancer. <sup>4 p9</sup>  
 $40,890 \text{ people expected to die in 2016} \times 25 \text{ years} = 1,022,250$
- ◆ Every 13 minutes, one woman in the U.S. will lose her life to breast cancer.  
 $365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year}$   
 $525,600 / 40,450^{\text{4 p9}} \text{ women die/yr} = 12.99 = 13$
- ◆ Early detection and effective treatment resulted in a 36 percent decline in breast cancer mortality (deaths) in the U.S. between 1989-2012. <sup>4 p9</sup>
- ◆ Even though black women have a higher incidence rate before age 45 they are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age. <sup>1 p4</sup>
- ◆ In 2012 (most recent data available), breast cancer death rates were 42 percent higher in black women than in white women. <sup>1 p8</sup>
- ◆ Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women in the U.S. <sup>5 p8</sup>
- ◆ Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women <sup>4 p 27</sup> second only to lung cancer. <sup>4 p 28</sup>

### Survival

- ◆ In 1980, the 5-year relative survival rate for women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer (cancer confined to the breast) was about 74 percent. <sup>6</sup> Today, that number is 99 percent. <sup>4 p9</sup>
- ◆ Currently there are more than 3 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. <sup>1 p4</sup>

### Screening

- ◆ In the U.S., white, black and Asian-American women 45 years of age and older reported similar numbers for having a mammogram in the past two years (69 percent, 70 percent and 69 percent respectively); however, in women of other racial/ethnic groups, mammography usage is slightly lower: 64 percent in Hispanic/Latina women, and 61 percent in American Indian and Alaska Native women. <sup>1 p 19</sup>

## Breast Cancer Around the World

- ◆ Worldwide, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in women. <sup>2</sup>  
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- ◆ Every 19 seconds, somewhere in the world, a case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman.

$365 \text{ days/yr} \times 24 \text{ hr/day} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} = 525,600 \text{ minutes in each year} \times 60 \text{ seconds in a minute} =$   
 $31,536,000 \text{ seconds in a year. } 31,536,000 \text{secs} / 1,670,000 \text{ new cancer cases/yr} = 18.8 = 19 \text{ seconds}$

## **Breast Cancer Around the World**

- ◆ About 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed around the world in 2012 (most recent data available) which is 25 percent of all cancers diagnosed.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ An estimated 522,000 breast cancer deaths occurred around the world in 2012 (most recent data available).<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ At the current rate, 13 million breast cancer deaths around the world will occur in the next 25 years.  
 $522,000^3 \text{ deaths worldwide} \times 25 \text{ years} = 13,050,000$
- ◆ Every 60 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.

Divide the number of seconds in a year (31,536,000) by the number of breast cancer deaths/year worldwide (522,000)<sup>3</sup> = 60 seconds (60.4730).

**Note:** The terms African-American, black, Hispanic, white and Asian are used in different statements listed above. These are the terms that were used in these references that informed the statements.

<sup>1</sup> [Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2015-2016 ACS](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Global Cancer Facts & Figures 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, ACS](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Globocan, 2012](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Cancer Facts & Figures, 2016 ACS](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Cancer Facts & Figures for Hispanics/Latinos, 2015-2017 ACS](#)

<sup>6</sup> [SEER Stat Fact Sheets: Female Breast Cancer, 1975-2012-table 4.11, Table 15.10, Table 6.10](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Wiley Online Library, 2016](#)