

Screening may save lives

Getting regular screenings (along with treatment if diagnosed) lowers the risk of dying from breast cancer. Screening tests can find breast cancer early, when the chances of survival are highest. Talk with a doctor about which screening tests are right for you.

In the past, African-American women were less likely than white women to get regular mammograms. Lower screening rates in the past may be a possible reason for the difference in survival rates today.

Percentage of women who had a mammogram within the past 2 years

African-American Women	69%
White Women	65%
Hispanic/Latina Women	61%
American indian/ Alaska Native	60%
Asian-American	59%

In 2015, (most recent data available)

Resources

Susan G. Komen®
1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636)
www.komen.org

American Cancer Society
1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org

Intercultural Cancer Council
www.iccnetwork.org

National Cancer Institute
1-800-4-CANCER
www.cancer.gov

Related fact sheets in this series:

- Breast Cancer & Risk
- Breast Cancer Screening and Follow-up Tests

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FACTS FOR LIFE

Racial & Ethnic Differences



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visit komen.org or call
Susan G. Komen's breast care helpline at
1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday
through Friday, 9 AM to 10 PM ET.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. However, the rates of getting and dying from breast cancer differ among racial and ethnic groups.

Why are there racial and ethnic differences in rates of breast cancer?

Some populations are more likely than others to have certain risk factors for breast cancer. These differences may help explain differences in incidence rates. Risk factors that vary by race and ethnicity include:

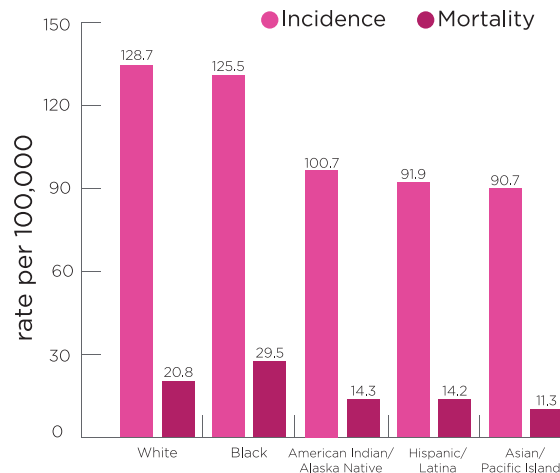
- Age at first period
- Age at menopause
- Age at first childbirth
- Body weight
- Number of childbirths
- Menopausal hormone therapy use (postmenopausal hormone use)

Studies are looking at other reasons for these differences.

Incidence (new cases) rates

Rates of breast cancer in the U.S vary by race and ethnicity. White and African-American women have the highest incidence and American Indian/Alaska Native women have the lowest incidence. Overall, the breast cancer incidence rate

Female Breast Cancer Incidence (2010-2014) and Mortality (2011-2015) Rates by Race/Ethnicity, U.S.



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among African-American women is slightly lower than in white women in the U.S. However, among women under age 40, African-American women have a higher incidence of breast cancer than white women.

New immigrants to the U.S. tend to have rates of breast cancer similar to those in their home countries. Over generations, the daughters and granddaughters of immigrants tend to have a risk similar to other women born in the U.S.

Mortality (death) rates

In the U.S., African-American women have higher breast cancer mortality rates than women from other racial and ethnic groups, about 40 percent higher for African-American women than white women.

Hispanic/Latina women are more likely to die from breast cancer than white women diagnosed at a similar age and stage.

Women of some races/ethnicities are more likely than others to have delays in diagnosis and treatment. These delays can impact survival. A delay in diagnosis can lead to a later stage at diagnosis. Most often, the higher the stage, the poorer the prognosis (outcome). African-American women and Hispanic/Latina women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with late stage breast cancers. In addition, access to timely and high quality care may also impact survival.

These differences in survival may be due to differences in tumor biology. For example, African-American women are more likely than other women to be diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, an aggressive type of breast cancer.