


BREAST CANCER IN THE UK 2025: KEY STATS

UK-WIDE INCIDENCE


1 in 3 new cancers diagnosed in women will be breast cancer.¹


1 in 7 women will get breast cancer in their lifetime.²


9 mins A woman is diagnosed with breast cancer **every 9 minutes** and a man every day – by 2040, this will be every 8 minutes for women.³


45 mins Every year in the UK, around **11,500 women** and **90 men** die from breast cancer. This means someone dies from breast cancer **every 45 minutes**.⁴

ECONOMIC AND WELLBEING COSTS

£3.2-3.5bn
is the estimated total cost of breast cancer to the UK economy in 2025.⁹

£973m
The direct cost of breast cancer to the NHS in 2025..¹¹

£3.9-4.2bn
is what this figure could rise to by 2050 if nothing changes.¹⁰

£2.2bn
Productivity losses from illness and early death in 2025.¹²

£20.2bn
The total wellbeing costs associated with breast cancer in 2025 – around 6 times higher than the economic costs.¹³

IMPACT

Treatments¹⁴

81%
received a tumour resection.

62%
received radiotherapy.

36%
received chemotherapy.

Side effects and quality of life

83%
of primary patients reported **tiredness**.¹⁷

88%
of metastatic patients

Impact on people's lives¹⁵

The physical and emotional impact of breast cancer and last during and beyond their treatment. People have said they feel:

“anxious and worried” “afraid of recurrence”
“unhappy with body image” “lost” “sexual issues”
“lacking energy” “isolating side effects”

61%
of primary patients reported **memory problems**.¹⁸

70%
of metastatic patients

75%
of primary patients reported **menopausal symptoms**.¹⁹

78%
of metastatic patients

Metastatic breast cancer

Around **61,000**
people in the UK are living with metastatic breast cancer.¹⁶

People face a greater number of issues, including **lower quality of life, traumatic stress symptoms, and hopelessness**, although these can improve over time.

60%
of primary and metastatic patients reported concerns over **body image**.²⁰

66%
of people reported **pain and discomfort**.²¹

ENDNOTES

¹ [CRUK, 2021](#)

² Ibid

³ Cancer registration statistics: NHS Digital (2024). Cancer registration statistics, England: 2022. Average figures for 2020-22. Public Health Scotland (2024). Cancer incidence in Scotland. Average figures for 2020-22. Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (2024). Breast cancer incidence. Average figures for 2019-21. Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (2024). Average figures for 2020-22.

⁴ Average mortality figures for each nation using 2020-22 data (2019-2021 for Scotland). NHS Digital (2024). Cancer registration statistics, England: 2022. Public Health Scotland (2022). Cancer mortality. Annual update to 2021. Public Health Wales (2024). Cancer mortality in Wales. Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (2024). Breast cancer statistics: 1993-2022.

⁵ Average total of UK invasive breast cancer cases between 2017 and 2019 from: NHS Digital (2021). Cancer registration statistics, England: 2019 (average figures for 2017-19); Public Health Scotland (2020). Cancer Incidence in Scotland (average figures for 2017-19); Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (2022). Breast cancer incidence (average figures for 2017-19); HSC Public Health Agency (2021). Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (average figures for 2017-19)

⁶ [Breast Cancer Now](#); [NIHR, 2023](#); [CRUK, 2021](#)

⁷ [Bowen RL et al, 2008](#); PHE and CRUK (2016). Ethnicity and stage at diagnosis. National cancer registration and analysis service data briefing

⁸ The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust: A beginner's guide to BRCA1 and BRCA2

⁹ Demos (2025). The cost of breast cancer: 2025 update

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Cancer treatments. National Disease Registration Service. Available at: digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/cancer-treatments

¹⁵ Breast cancer in the UK 2024: A compendium. Available at Breast cancer in the UK 2024 | Breast Cancer Now

¹⁶ Based on findings from [Palmieri C et al, 2022](#) and requested data from Public Health Scotland, 2022

¹⁷ [Coles C et al., 2024](#)

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ NHS England (2021). Cancer quality of life survey Summary report: first data release October 2021

²¹ NHS England (2024). Cancer Quality of Survey. March 2024 update. Available at: digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/cancerquality-of-life-survey