



# BREAST CANCER IN THE UK 2024: KEY STATS

## UK-WIDE INCIDENCE

  
**1 in 3** new cancers diagnosed in women will be breast cancer.<sup>1</sup>


  
**1 in 7** women will get breast cancer in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

  
A woman is diagnosed with breast cancer **every 10 minutes** and a man every day – by 2040, this will be every 8 minutes for women.<sup>3</sup>

  
Every year in the UK, around **11,500 women** and **85 men** die from breast cancer. This means someone dies from breast cancer **every 45 minutes**.<sup>4</sup>

## RISK FACTORS

  
**99%** of breast cancers are in women.<sup>5</sup>

  
**80%** of breast cancer cases are in women over 50.<sup>6</sup>

Women from some ethnic minority groups are more likely to be **diagnosed at a later stage** and have **poorer outcomes**.<sup>7</sup>

**5-10%** of women are estimated to have **an altered gene** (most commonly BRCA1 and BRCA2) that increases their risk of breast cancer.<sup>8</sup>

## ECONOMIC AND WELLBEING COSTS

**£2-6-2.8bn** is the estimated total cost of breast cancer to the UK economy in 2024.<sup>9</sup>

**£3.6bn** is what this figure could rise to by 2034 if nothing changes.<sup>10</sup>

**£727m** The direct costs born by the NHS in 2024.<sup>11</sup>

**£1.8bn** Productivity losses from illness and early death in 2024.<sup>12</sup>

**£17.5bn** The total wellbeing costs associated with breast cancer in 2024 - around 6 times higher than the economic costs.<sup>13</sup>

## IMPACT

### TREATMENTS<sup>14</sup>

**81%** received a tumour resection.

**61%** received radiotherapy.

**34%** received chemotherapy.

### SIDE EFFECTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

**83%** OF PRIMARY PATIENTS & **88%** OF SECONDARY PATIENTS reported **tiredness**.<sup>17</sup>

**61%** OF PRIMARY PATIENTS & **70%** OF SECONDARY PATIENTS reported **memory problems**.<sup>18</sup>

**75%** OF PRIMARY PATIENTS & **78%** OF SECONDARY PATIENTS reported **menopausal symptoms**.<sup>19</sup>

### IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES<sup>15</sup>

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” “LACKING ENERGY” “SEXUAL ISSUES”  
“LOST” “ISOLATING SIDE EFFECTS”

### SECONDARY BREAST CANCER

Around **61,000**<sup>16</sup> people in the UK are living with secondary breast cancer.

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 SECONDARY PATIENTS reported concerns over **body image**.<sup>20</sup>

**72%** OF PEOPLE reported **pain and discomfort**.<sup>21</sup>

**BREAST CANCER NOW**  
The research & support charity

**We're here**

# ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> [CRUK, 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> CRUK, 2023. Age-period-cohort modelling approach using 2020-based population projections (Office for National Statistics) and observed cancer incidence (1975-2018 for England, Scotland and Wales, 1993-2018 for Northern Ireland)

<sup>4</sup> Average mortality figures for each nation using 2017-19 data: Office for National Statistics, Death registrations summary tables - England and Wales 2019; Public Health Scotland, Cancer Mortality in Scotland 2019; Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, Northern Ireland – mortality statistics 1993-2019.

<sup>5</sup> 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)

<sup>6</sup> [Breast Cancer Now](#); [NIHR, 2023](#); [CRUK, 2021](#)

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

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

<sup>9</sup> Demos (2024). The cost of breast cancer: Modelling the economic impact to the UK

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Cancer treatments. National Disease Registration Service. Available at: [digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/cancer-treatments](https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/cancer-treatments)

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

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

<sup>17</sup> [Coles C et al., 2024](#)

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

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

<sup>21</sup> Ibid