

## Breast cancer: facts and figures

Source: Breast Cancer Now

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women in the UK.
- **Every year around 55,000 women and around 350 men are diagnosed with breast cancer** in the UK.
- **One in eight women** in the UK will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime.
- Every year around **11,500 women** and **80 men** die from breast cancer in the UK – **that's nearly 1,000 deaths each month.**
- **Every day, around 150 women are diagnosed with breast cancer, that's equivalent to one diagnosis every ten minutes.**
- Far too many young women are still dying from the disease – **breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women under 50.**

### Diagnoses each year by country:

- England: around 46,000 women diagnosed each year
- Scotland: around 4,700 women diagnosed per year
- Wales: nearly 3,000 women diagnosed per year
- Northern Ireland: over 1,300 women diagnosed per year

### Secondary breast cancer:

- When breast cancer spreads away from the breast, to other parts of the body – known as secondary (or metastatic) breast cancer – it sadly becomes incurable.
- It is estimated that there are 35,000 people in the UK living with secondary breast cancer
- While secondary breast cancer is incurable, with the latest treatments some people are able to live with the disease for many years.
- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October is Secondary Breast Cancer Awareness Day**

### Early (non-invasive) breast cancer:

- Around **6,700** women a year are diagnosed with Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS), a non-invasive form of breast cancer, characterised by abnormal changes in the milk ducts of the breast.
  - If left untreated, around half of DCIS cases will remain contained in the ducts and not cause any harm – however for the other half, these abnormal cells will invade into surrounding tissues and develop into invasive breast cancer.
  - Unfortunately, there is currently no way to predict whether or not DCIS will progress into invasive breast cancer, and so all women with DCIS are advised to have treatment.
- Around **700** women a year are diagnosed with Lobular Carcinoma In Situ (LCIS), a non-invasive form of breast cancer

### Press Office

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We believe that if we all act now, by 2050, everyone who develops breast cancer will live – and live well

**If we don't act now:**

- By 2030, more than 57,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer every year
- By 2030, over 1.2 million women will be living with or after a breast cancer diagnosis

**What causes breast cancer?**

- A combination of our genes, lifestyle choices and surrounding environment contribute to breast cancer risk. One of the biggest risk factors is **age** – at least four out of five breast cancers occur in women over 50.
- Up to 15% of people with breast cancer have a family history, which is likely to have contributed to why they developed the disease.
- You can lower your risk of developing breast cancer by making lifestyle changes such as drinking less alcohol, maintaining a healthy weight and being regularly physically active.

**Detection**

- The earlier breast cancer is found, the more likely treatment is to be successful.
- Most breast cancers are found by women noticing unusual changes, and by reporting these to their doctor. Most women with unusual breast changes find they do not have cancer – but it's important to get anything unusual checked out by your doctor as soon as possible.
- **Screening:** Women between 50 and 70 are invited for routine breast screening (a mammogram) every three years to help spot breast cancer sooner. Breast screening can prevent women dying from breast cancer – with comprehensive evidence showing that the NHS Breast Screening Programme prevents 1,300 deaths each year.

**ENDS**