Female Breast Cancer In California

Breast cancer in California is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, regardless of race/ethnicity, and the second leading cause of cancer-related death. It is estimated that there will be 24,985 women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in in 2014 and that 4,245 will die from the disease

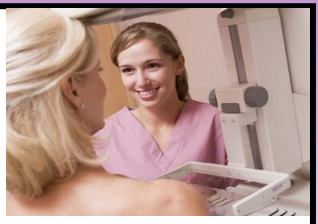


Figure 1. Age-adjusted female breast cancer incidence and mortality rates in California, 1988-2011

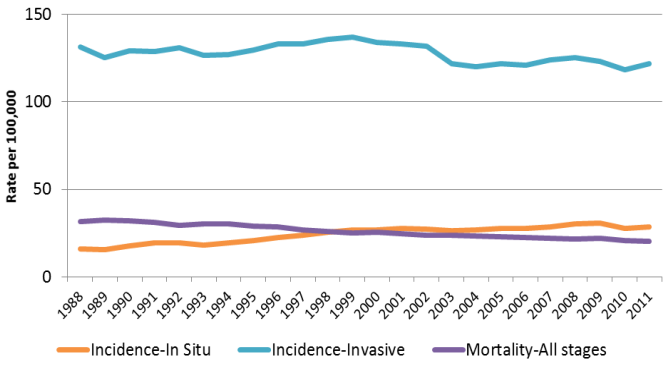
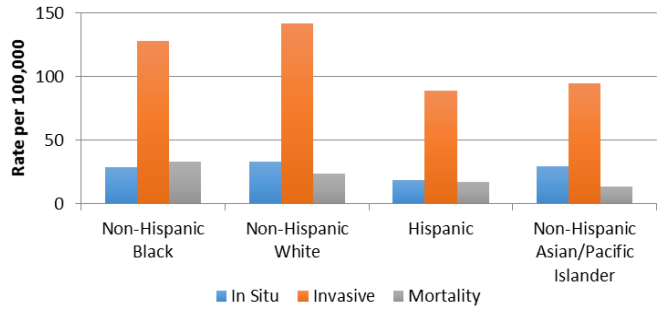


Figure 2. Five-year age-adjusted female breast cancer incidence and mortality rates by race/ethnicity in California, 2007-2011



Overall, incidence rates have been stable with slight increases from 1988 , with only a small decrease from 2001-2004. However, incidence rates of *in situ* breast cancer, a non-invasive form of breast cancer, which is most often detected through mammography screening and is correlated with an increased risk of developing malignant disease, has been increasing gradually since 1988.The overall mortality rate decreased steadily from 1988 through 2011 (See Figure 1).

In situ breast cancer incidence from 2007-2011 were highest among non-Hispanic white females (33.4 per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic Asians/Pacific Islanders (29.5 per 100,000), non-Hispanic blacks (28.8 per 100,000), and Hispanics (18.9 per 100,000). Racial/ethnic incidence rate patterns for invasive cancer were slightly different; highest among non-Hispanic white females (141.7 per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic blacks (127.8 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islanders (94.4 per 100,000), and were lowest among Hispanics (89.1 per 100,000). However, mortality rates are highest among non-Hispanic blacks (33.2 per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic whites (23.4 per 100,000), Hispanics (17.0 per 100,000), and non-Hispanic Asian/ Pacific Islanders (13.2 per 100,000) (See Figure 2).

Most breast cancers are diagnosed early (61.1 percent), when the cancer is still confined to the primary site. At the localized stage, the five-year relative survival, a measure of the likelihood that a cancer patient will survive their cancer for at least five years after diagnosis, is very high (99.0 percent). 31.9 percent of cases diagnosed between 2002 and 2011 were diagnosed at regional stage – with a five-year relative survival of 84.5 percent. Less than 5 percent of patients were diagnosed at a distant stage, when the cancer has already metastasized. However, survival amongst this group is much lower, only 24.1 percent (See Figure 3).

Figure 3. Stage distribution and five-year relative survival by stage at diagnosis for female breast cancer, California, 2002-2011

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (Confined to Primary Site)	61.1%	99.0%
Regional (Spread to Regional Lymph Nodes)	31.9%	84.5%
Distant (Metastasized to Other Organs)	4.3%	24.1%
Unknown Stage	2.7%	54.3%

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