



Although rare, young women can get breast cancer. Young women diagnosed with breast cancer face issues that may differ from older women. These issues may include early menopause, loss of fertility, pregnancy after treatment, the ability to breastfeed, overall higher stage of breast cancer at diagnosis, poorer outcomes and more.

See more here:

- [Age and Breast Cancer](#)
- [Unique Issues for Young Women with Breast Cancer](#)
- [Komen Educational Materials for Younger Women](#)

INCIDENCE (NEW CASES)

- While it is rare, young women under age 40 can develop breast cancer. In the U.S. fewer than 5 percent of all new breast cancer cases occur in women under age 40.^{4p1}
- In 2019, about 26,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed among women under age 45 in the U.S.⁶ and about 2,340 breast cancer deaths in women under age 45 are expected.⁷
- Among women younger than age 50 in the U.S., invasive breast cancer rates have slowly increased (0.2 percent per year) since the mid-1990s.^{4p8}

If Current Age is:

Probability of developing breast cancer
in the next 10 years is:

Or 1 in:

20	0.07%	1,429
30	0.5%	217
40	1.5%	67
50	2.3%	43
60	3.5%	29
70	4.0%	25
Lifetime Risk	12.4%	8

MORTALITY (DEATHS)

- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death (death from any type of cancer) among women ages 20 to 39 in the U.S.³

This fact sheet is about young women ages 40 and below; however, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death (death from any type of cancer) among women ages 20-59 in the U.S.³

- Breast cancers in younger women are more likely to be fast-growing, higher grade and hormone receptor-negative, making the need for chemotherapy more likely.²



Specific Populations and Breast Cancer

Young Women

CITATIONS:

¹ [Breast Cancer Facts & Figures](#) 2015-2016, ACS

² [Komen.org](#), Unique Issues for Young Women with Breast Cancer

³ [Wiley Online Library](#), 2019

⁴ [Breast Cancer Facts & Figures](#) 2017-2018

⁵ [SEER Cancer Statistics Review](#), 1975-2015

⁶ [Estimated New Cases for the 4 Major Cancers by Sex & Age Group, 2019](#)

⁷ [Estimated Deaths for the 4 Major Cancers by Sex & Age Group, 2019](#)