Breast Cancer Incidence

♦ Worldwide, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and the 2nd most common cancer overall.¹

♦ It is estimated that nearly 1.7 million new cancer cases of breast cancer were diagnosed around the world in 2012 (25 percent of all cancers).¹ (At the current rate, 1.67M x 25 years = approximately 42 million (41,750,000) cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women over the next 25 years.

♦ Worldwide, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in both more and less developed regions with slightly more cases in less developed* (883,000 cases) than in more developed (794,000) regions.¹

♦ Since 2008, breast cancer incidence around the world has increased by more than 20 percent, while mortality has increased by 14 percent.¹

To calculate:
In 2012, 1.7 million women around the world were diagnosed with breast cancer²
In 2008, 1.4 million women around the world were diagnosed with breast cancer²
20 percent of 1.4 million = 280,000
1.4 million + 280,000= 1,680,000

♦ Every 19 seconds, somewhere in the world, a case of breast cancer is diagnosed in a woman.
To calculate:  Divide the number of seconds in a year (31,566,926) by the number of new breast cancer cases/year worldwide (1,670,000)² = 19 (18.9023509) seconds.

♦ The rise in breast cancer cases is seen in every region and in every country, with the number of cases in some countries increasing much faster than the global trend. The number of women with breast cancer in Malaysia, for example, grew from 1,529 to 8,429, an annual increase of 5.7 percent between 1980 and 2010. Over the same period, the United States, which has more breast cancer cases than any other country, went from 127,425 cases to 241,249, an annual increase of 2.1 percent.², p.11

♦ The number of new breast cancer cases more than doubled around the world in the last three decades. The regions with the most growth in breast cancer cases are North Africa and the Middle East, Oceania, Southeast Asia, Western sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Latin America. In the high-income countries of North America, Western Europe, and Southern Latin America, breast cancer cases have grown at a slower pace than the global average. The United Kingdom had one of the lowest annual growth rates at 1 percent.², p.11

♦ Globally, 1 out of every 18 women is at risk of developing breast cancer during her lifetime (5.5 percent.)², p.11

♦ In developing countries* breast cancer cases in younger women (ages 15-49) now make up 44.1 percent of the overall number of cases.², p.11

♦ In 2010, women of reproductive age (ages 15-49) in developing countries* made up 23 percent of the global total of breast cancer cases, meaning there are now twice as many women under 50 with breast cancer in the developing world than in developed countries.², p.13

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Breast Cancer Mortality

♦ Worldwide, breast cancer ranks as the fifth cause of death from cancer overall (522,000 deaths).¹

♦ An estimated 522,000 breast cancer deaths occurred around the world in 2012.¹ (At the current rate, 522,000 x 25 years = 13 million (13,050,000) breast cancer deaths around the world will occur in the next 25 years).

♦ Breast cancer is the most frequent cause of cancer death in women in less developed regions (324,000 deaths, 14.3 percent of the total) and it is now the second cause of cancer death in more developed* regions (198,000 deaths, 15.4 percent) after lung cancer.¹

♦ While breast cancer cases are on the rise, deaths are increasing at a slower pace.² p. 13

♦ Every minute, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer.

To calculate: Divide the number of seconds in a year (31,566,926) by the number of breast cancer deaths/year worldwide (522,000)¹ = 60 seconds (60.4730).

♦ Deaths from breast cancer in the developing world* are increasing at an annual rate of 2.7 percent.² p.9

♦ In 1980 and in 2010, women in Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Bangladesh had the lowest risk of dying from breast cancer, at less than 0.5 percent.² p. 13

♦ In 2010, the women of Uruguay, Haiti and the Bahamas had the highest risk of death from breast cancer.² p. 13

♦ The number of breast cancer deaths in reproductive-aged (ages 15-49 years) women in developing countries* is rising.² p. 15

♦ The fraction of breast cancer deaths in women under age 50 varies from 10.3 percent of the total number of deaths in Western Europe to 41 percent in Central sub-Saharan Africa. Within countries, the fraction of younger women dying from breast cancer can be even higher. In Bangladesh, 62 percent of all breast cancer deaths are in women under 50.² p. 15

♦ There was an estimated 26,400 deaths from breast cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2010.² p. 64-71

♦ There was an estimated 43,208 deaths from breast cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012.¹

Global Cervical Cancer Estimates

♦ Worldwide, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, and the seventh overall, with an estimated 528,000 new cases in 2012.¹

♦ Cervical cases are on the rise, and deaths are on the rise at nearly the same pace.² p. 18
A large majority (about 85 percent) of the global burden of cervical cancers occurs in the less
developed* regions, where it accounts for almost 12 percent of all female cancers.1

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women in Eastern and Middle Africa.1

There were an estimated 266,000 deaths from cervical cancer worldwide in 2012, accounting for 7.5
percent of all female cancer deaths. Almost nine out of ten (87 percent) cervical cancer deaths occur in
the less developed* regions.1

The burden of cervical cancer is shifting to the developing world* and more women are being
diagnosed with cervical cancer during their reproductive years (15-49).2, p. 18

Worldwide, cervical cancer cases increased from 378,000 in 1980 to 454,000 in 2010. This is an
average annual increase of 0.6 percent. The growth was almost entirely in the developing
world.*2, p.18

The risk of a woman developing cervical cancer in a high-income country is now less than 1 percent,
meaning that in developed countries* 1 out of every 100 women risk developing cervical cancer in her
lifetime.2, p. 18

In the developing world*, the risk of cervical cancer is much higher. In fact, the risk is 35 percent
greater than in high-income countries. Overall, 76 percent of new cervical cancer cases occur in
developing regions. Sub-Saharan Africa alone makes up 22 percent of all cervical cancer cases, or
76,200 in 2010.2, p. 18

In developing countries*, there were 154,000 cases of cervical cancer in 2010 among women ages
15 to 49. That represents 34 percent of the global total, up from 30 percent in 1980. In developed
countries, by contrast, the fraction of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) with cervical cancer
shrank slightly from 13 percent to 10 percent.2, p. 18

The total number of women dying from cervical cancer grew from 174,000 in 1980 to 200,000 in 2010,
an annual rate of increase of 0.5 percent.2, p. 18

In 2010, the countries with the lowest levels of mortality due to cervical cancer were Syria, Iran, and
Maldives. Guyana and Zambia had some of the highest mortality rates.2, p. 18

It has been estimated that more than 80 percent of all new cervical cancers are found in countries that
lack organized Pap smear screening, a common test to detect cancer or abnormalities that may lead to
cancer of the cervix.2, p. 23

When women with cervical cancer are surveyed, research has shown that about 60 percent of them did
not regularly see a physician for a Pap screening.2, p. 23

Global Women’s Cancer Estimates

The WHO estimates that in 2007, about 72 percent of all cancer deaths occurred in low- and middle-
income countries. By 2020, an estimated 60 percent of all new cancer cases will occur in the least
developed nations (i.e., the subset of poorest countries).3
Disparities in costs associated with cancers also exist. In 2009, it’s estimated that 12.9 million new cases of cancer occurred worldwide, with an estimated economic cost of $286 billion. This includes medical and non-medical costs, such as productivity losses as a result of time away from work. This situation undoubtedly threatens to compound matters for developing countries, where resources are limited and only 5 percent of global resources to fight cancer are spent.

Global Cervical Cancer Estimates

According to GLOBOCAN 2012, an estimated 14.1 million new cancer cases and 8.2 million cancer-related deaths occurred around the world in 2012, compared with 12.7 million and 7.6 million, respectively, in 2008.

Projections based on the GLOBOCAN 2012 estimates predict a worldwide increase to 19.3 million new cancer cases per year by 2025, due to the growth and aging of the global population. More than half of all cancers (56.8 percent) and cancer deaths (64.9 percent) in 2012 occurred in less developed regions of the world, and these proportions will increase further by 2025.

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*Although there is no official definition of “developing” country or world, “developing country” is a term generally used to describe a nation with a low level of material well-being. Since no single definition of the term “developing country” is recognized internationally, the levels of development may vary widely within so-called developing countries.

1 Globocan 2012- [http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx](http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx)
3 Global Health Council, Cancer in Developing World
5 [http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=1056#1](http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=1056#1)