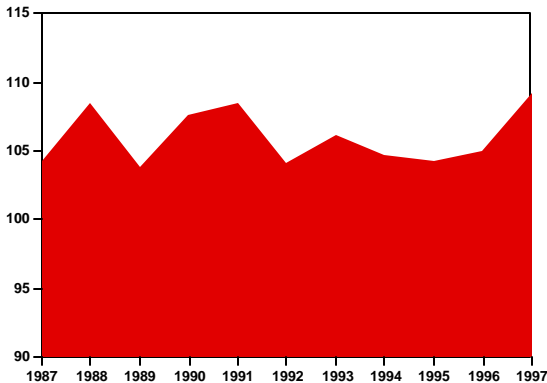


FEMALE BREAST CANCER in Pennsylvania

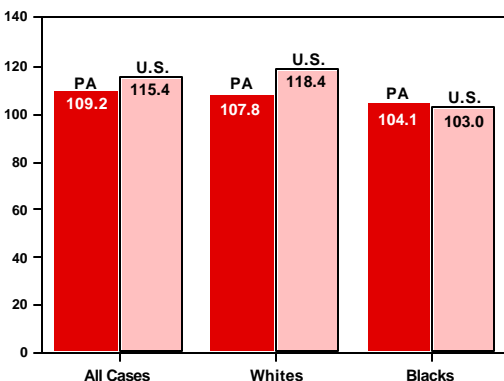
INCIDENCE:

*Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, Invasive Breast Cancer
Pennsylvania Residents, 1987-1997*



Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed among women in Pennsylvania. The age-adjusted incidence rate for invasive female breast cancer among residents has fluctuated between 103.9 in 1989 and 109.2 in 1997 (see chart above). The 1997 rate was the highest recorded during the eleven-year period and, that year, 9,586 cases of female breast cancer were recorded among residents by the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry, compared to 8,418 for 1987 – an increase of 13.9 percent.

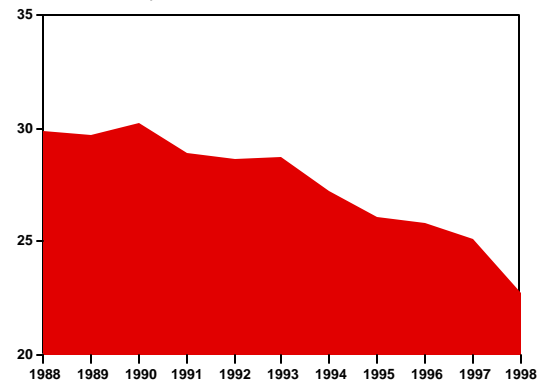
*Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, Invasive Breast Cancer
United States and Pennsylvania Residents by Race, 1997*



The bar graph above shows that Pennsylvania's age-adjusted incidence rates in 1997 for invasive female breast cancer among all residents and whites were lower than the United States 1997 rate. However, the state's rate was higher among blacks. Pennsylvania's rates were 5.4 percent lower for all cases; 9.0 percent lower for whites; and, 1.1 percent higher among black female residents, compared to United States rates.

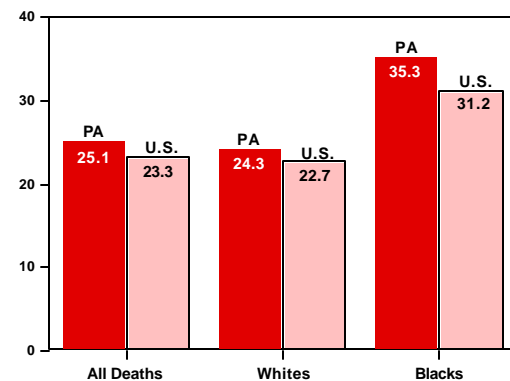
MORTALITY:

*Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Female Breast Cancer
Pennsylvania Residents, 1988-1998*



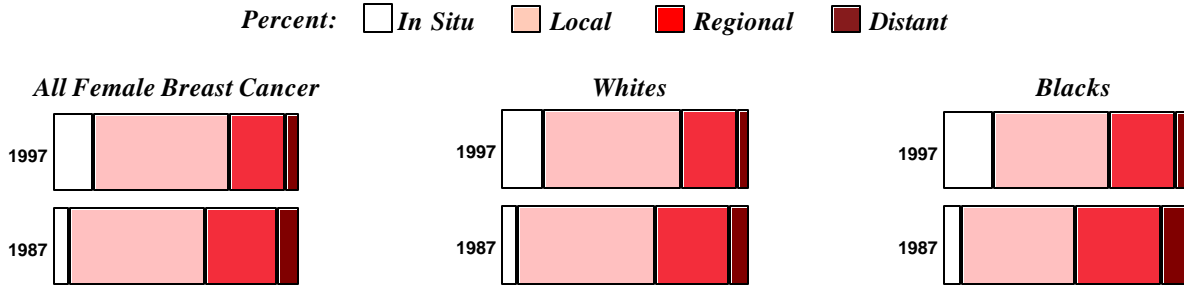
Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths among Pennsylvania women. In 1998, there were 2,252 deaths due to female breast cancer among residents. This resulted in an age-adjusted mortality rate of 22.7 per 100,000 (see chart above). In 1988, there were 2,572 deaths reported for a rate of 29.9. The annual age-adjusted mortality rates have declined between 1988 and 1998. The 1998 rate was the lowest ever recorded since 1988 and was 24.1 percent lower than the 1988 rate.

*Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Female Breast Cancer
United States and Pennsylvania Residents by Race, 1997*



The graph above shows that Pennsylvania's age-adjusted mortality rates for breast cancer were higher than the United States rates for all deaths and deaths among whites and blacks in 1997. In recent years, Pennsylvania's rates have been among some of the highest state rates in the country. The state's 1997 rate for all breast cancer deaths was 7.7 percent higher than the United States rate; for whites, 7.0 percent higher; and, for blacks, 13.1 percent higher.

STAGE of DISEASE at Time of Diagnosis by Race, 1987 and 1997

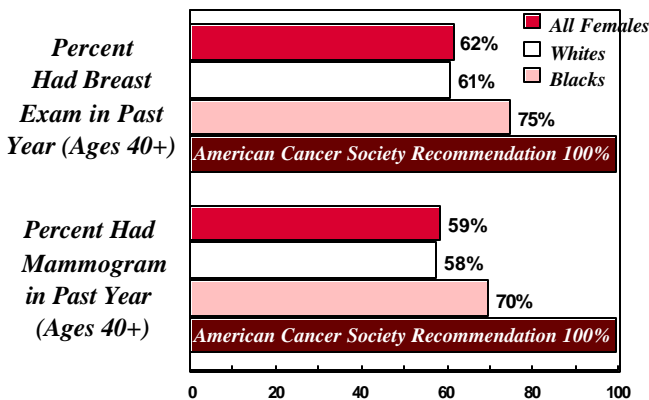


ALL BREAST CANCER – Between 1987 and 1997, the percent of early stage diagnoses of female breast cancer among all residents increased rather substantially. In 1987, only 6.2 percent of all breast cancers were diagnosed at the in situ stage; by 1997, this figure increased to 16.5 percent. For local stage diagnoses, the percent declined slightly from 55.4 in 1987 to 55.1 in 1997. Regional stage diagnoses also declined from 30.1 to 23.3 percent, and the percent of diagnoses for distant metastases declined from 8.3 to 5.1 percent.

WHITES – The changes in staging patterns between 1987 and 1997 for white female residents diagnosed with breast cancer mirrored those that occurred for all cases. The percent of in situ diagnoses increased dramatically from 6.0 percent in 1987 to 16.2 percent in 1997. Local diagnoses decreased to 55.8 percent in 1997 from 56.0 percent in 1987. The percent of regional stage diagnoses declined (29.9 percent in 1987; 22.9 percent in 1997). And the percent diagnoses of distant metastases also declined from 8.1 to 5.1 percent.

BLACKS – Among black females, the percent of in situ diagnoses more than doubled between 1987 and 1997. Declines were recorded for regional and distant stage diagnoses. In 1997, in situ diagnoses among black women accounted for 20.2 percent (up from 7.5 percent in 1987); local staging, for 47.1 percent (up slightly from 46.3 percent in 1987); regional diagnoses, for 26.4 percent (down from 34.3 percent in 1987); and, distant metastases, for 6.2 percent (down from 12.0 percent in 1987).

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS for Breast Cancer by Race Pennsylvania Females Age 40 and Older, 1998



Regular clinical breast examinations and mammograms can detect breast cancer at earlier stages of the disease, thereby improving chances for survival.

CLINICAL BREAST EXAM – According to results from the 1998 statewide sample telephone survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 62 percent of all Pennsylvania women aged 40 and older had a clinical breast exam in the past year. The percentage was similar (61) for white female residents. Among black females of those ages, 75 percent had the exam in the past year. The American Cancer Society recommends that all women aged 40 and older have a clinical breast exam and a mammogram every year.

MAMMOGRAPHY – Results from the 1998 BRFSS survey showed that 59 percent of all Pennsylvania women aged 40 and older had a mammogram in the past year. The percentage was 58 for white female residents. Among black females of those ages, 70 percent reported having a mammogram in the previous twelve months. The American Cancer Society recommends that all women aged 40 and older have a mammogram every year.

HD0062P

NOTES: This pamphlet was produced by the Bureau of Health Statistics, Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Bureau can be contacted by telephone (717-783-2548), FAX (717-772-3258) or in writing (555 Walnut St., 6th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1900). Website is at www.health.state.pa.us/stats/. The Department is an equal opportunity provider of grants, contracts, services, and employment. Call the Department toll free at 877-PA-HEALTH. All the age-adjusted rates that appear here were calculated by the direct method using the 1970 United States standard million population. United States incidence rates are based on data collected by the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results) program of the National Cancer Institute from several cancer registries throughout the country which are considered to be reasonable representative subsets of the United States population.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
...in pursuit of good health

Tom Ridge
Governor
Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health