METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support and Awareness

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Facts 2025

1. Breast Cancer is the most common cancer among women in the world and the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. (Giaquinto et al., 2022)
2. Metastatic breast cancer (also known as Stage IV breast cancer) is breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body, most commonly to the bones, liver, lungs and brain. However, metastases can occur in almost any organ.
3. There is no cure for MBC; but there are treatments to help extend life.
4. Because of the way the US healthcare and government tracking systems (SEER) are set up there are no comprehensive or exact statistics on all MBC patients living in the US. METAvivor and other organizations are working with congress to update SEER to better track MBC.
5. Globally, an estimated 670,000 people die yearly from breast cancer. (WHO 2024)
6. In the US in 2024, approximately 42,250 women and 530 men will die of breast cancer. This is equivalent to ~117 people per day. (ACS 2024, Giaquinto et al., 2024)
7. In the US there are 150,000-160,000 women living with MBC. (Gallicchio et al., 2022; Mariotto et al., 2017; Giaquinto et al., 2022)
8. Many MBC patients often feel invisible and forgotten in the pink ribbon campaigns
9. The MBC ribbon was designed and trademarked by METAvivor to represent metastatic breast cancer, with teal representing healing and spirituality, green representing renewal hope, and pink representing the origin of the cancer in the breast.
10. While Black/African American women have a lower incidence of breast cancer than White/Caucasian women, *they have a 38.1% higher mortality* (ACS 2024)
11. Men also have breast tissue and get breast cancer. Approximately one in 726 men will get breast cancer in 2024 and 530 will die. (ACS 2024)
12. MBC patients are in treatment for the duration of their lives.
13. Only about 30% of MBC patients in the US live longer than 5 years. (ACS 2024, Mariotto et al. 2017)
14. The median survival of people diagnosed with MBC in 2019 was estimated at 3.2 years. (Caswell-Jin et al., 2021)
15. An estimated 1 in 4 early stage breast cancer will become metastatic. However, this varies greatly from about 10-40% due to large differences in risk of distant recurrence by stage at diagnosis and the biology of the disease itself. (Early Breast Cancer trials Collaborative Group, 2024)

16. All stages of breast cancer can return as Stage 4, even Stage 0, also known as ductal or lobular carcinoma in situ (DCIS or LCIS). Breast cancer is not sequential.
17. Of all **breast cancer diagnoses**, 6% are initially diagnosed with Stage 4 or de novo metastatic disease. (*SEER*Explorer Application*, 2024, Giaquinto et al., 2022)
18. Of all **metastatic breast cancer diagnoses**, an estimated 61% are recurrent disease from an earlier breast cancer diagnosis and 39% are de novo or diagnosed initially stage IV (Gallicchio et al., 2022)
19. MBC patients don't always look sick because this disease can be invisible from the outside
20. Young people are diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.
21. Breast cancer can recur as MBC from several months to 25+ years after early-stage treatment. Graphics including symptoms of recurrence can be found here. (After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, 2020)
22. Just **13%** of breast cancer dollars go toward MBC research. (Flowers et al., 2024)

Sources (in no order)

Giaquinto, A. N., Sung, H., Miller, K. D., Kramer, J. L., Newman, L. A., Minihan, A., Jemal, A., & Siegel, R. L. (2022). Breast Cancer Statistics, 2022. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, *72*(6), 524–541. https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21754

Giaquinto, A. N., Sung, H., Newman, L. A., Freedman, R. A., Smith, R. A., Star, J., Jemal, A., & Siegel, R. L. (2024). Breast cancer statistics 2024. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, *74*(6), 477–495. https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21863

After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. (2020) *Secondary Breast Cancer*. https://www.abcdiagnosis.co.uk/about-abcd/secondary-breast-cancer/

American Cancer Society. (2025) *Key Statistics for Breast Cancer in Men*. https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer-in-men/about/key-statistics.html

Caswell-Jin, J. L., Plevritis, S. K., Tian, L., Cadham, C. J., Xu, C., Stout, N. K., Sledge, G. W., Mandelblatt, J. S., & Kurian, A. W. (2018). Change in Survival in Metastatic Breast Cancer with

Treatment Advances: Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review. *JNCI Cancer Spectrum*, *2*(4), pky062. https://doi.org/10.1093/jncics/pky062

Caswell-Jin, J. L., Sun, L. P., Munoz, D., Lu, Y., Li, Y., Huang, H., Hampton, J. M., Song, J., Jayasekera, J., Schechter, C., Alagoz, O., Stout, N. K., Trentham-Dietz, A., Lee, S. J., Huang, X., Mandelblatt, J. S., Berry, D. A., Kurian, A. W., & Plevritis, S. K. (2024). Analysis of Breast Cancer Mortality in the US-1975 to 2019. *JAMA*, *331*(3), 233–241. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2023.25881

Mariotto, A. B., Etzioni, R., Hurlbert, M., Penberthy, L., & Mayer, M. (2017). Estimation of the Number of Women Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer in the United States. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention: A Publication of the American Association for Cancer Research, Cosponsored by the American Society of Preventive Oncology*, *26*(6), 809–815. https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-16-0889

Gallicchio, L., Devasia, T. P., Tonorezos, E., Mollica, M. A., & Mariotto, A. (2022). Estimation of the Number of Individuals Living With Metastatic Cancer in the United States. *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *114*(11), 1476–1483. https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djac158

*SEER*Explorer Application*. (2024). Retrieved September 7, 2024, from https://seer.cancer.gov/statistics-network/explorer/application.html?site=55&data_type=1&graph_type=2&compareBy=sex&chk

_sex_3=3&chk_sex_2=2&rate_type=1&race=1&age_range=1&stage=106&advopt_precision=1&advopt_show_ci=on&hdn_view=0&advopt_show_apc=on&advopt_display=1

Steeg, P. S. (2006). Tumor metastasis: Mechanistic insights and clinical challenges. *Nature Medicine*, *12*(8), 895–904. https://doi.org/10.1038/nm1469

Fares, J., Fares, M. Y., Khachfe, H. H., Salhab, H. A., & Fares, Y. (2020). Molecular principles of metastasis: A hallmark of cancer revisited. *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy*, *5*(1), 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41392-020-0134-x

Guan, X. (2015). Cancer metastases: Challenges and opportunities. *Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B*, *5*(5), 402–418. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsb.2015.07.005

American Cancer Society (2024). *Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2024-2025.* https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures/2024/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures-2024.pdf

World Health Organization (2024) *Breast Cancer* https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/breast-cancer

Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group. Electronic address: bc.overview@ctsu.ox.ac.uk. (2024). Reductions in recurrence in women with early breast cancer entering clinical trials between 1990 and 2009: A pooled analysis of 155 746 women in 151 trials. *Lancet (London, England)*, *404*(10461), 1407–1418. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)01745-8

Margaret Flowers, Teri Pollastro, Kari Wojtanik, Katherine McKenzie, Kimberly Badovinac, Medha Deoras-Sutliff, Lynne Davies; Analysis of Trends in Funding of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Research. *Cancer Res* 1 May 2024; 84 (9_Supplement): PO5–05–10.

https://doi.org/10.1158/1538-7445.SABCS23-PO5-05-10