The Need for Early Detection and Treatment of Breast Cancer

FACT SHEET

Variation in breast cancer survival rates

Overall, 93% of Minnesota women with breast cancer will survive at least five years after diagnosis. But breast cancer survival rates in Minnesota vary by race and ethnicity. Whereas 93% of white non-Hispanic women will live at least five years after a diagnosis of breast cancer, only 76% of Black women will survive five years after diagnosis.

Minnesota Black women have lower overall 5-year relative survival rates for breast cancer compared with White non-Hispanic women.

![Graph showing racial and ethnic disparities in breast cancer survival rates.](image)

The charts below show racial and ethnic disparities in breast cancer survival in both early- and late-stage breast cancers. Ninety-nine percent of white non-Hispanic women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer will survive at least five years after diagnosis, while 91% of Black and Asian women with early-stage breast cancer will survive five years after diagnosis.

Early-stage breast cancer

![Graph showing survival rates for early-stage breast cancer.](image)
Late-stage breast cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>5-Year Relative Survival (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic - All Races</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early detection and treatment

Breast cancers are easier to treat, and outcomes are often better when they are detected and treated early. Breast cancer screening can identify cancers early and is a vital approach to the control of this cancer.

The Minnesota Cancer Reporting System (MCRS) and Sage Screening Program are working together to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in breast cancer mortality. MCRS is a statewide, population-based cancer reporting system that gathers and reports on cancer occurrence to support state and local cancer prevention and control programs. Sage provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services at participating locations across Minnesota, and navigates Sage patients needing treatment to Medical Assistance for Breast or Cervical Cancer (mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/breast-cervical-cancer.jsp).

Sage has a wide network of partners working together to reduce cancer burden by providing access to and promoting breast and cervical cancer screening services for Minnesota’s uninsured and underinsured populations. For more information, go to MDH Sage Cancer Screenings at www.mnsage.com.


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