



European Commission

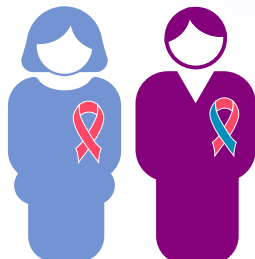
# BREAST CANCER IN THE EU

OCTOBER 2023

## SEX DIFFERENCES

**374,800** ◀  
number of women estimated to be **diagnosed** with breast cancer in 2022

**95,800** ◀  
number of women estimated to **die** of breast cancer in 2022



EU COUNTRIES

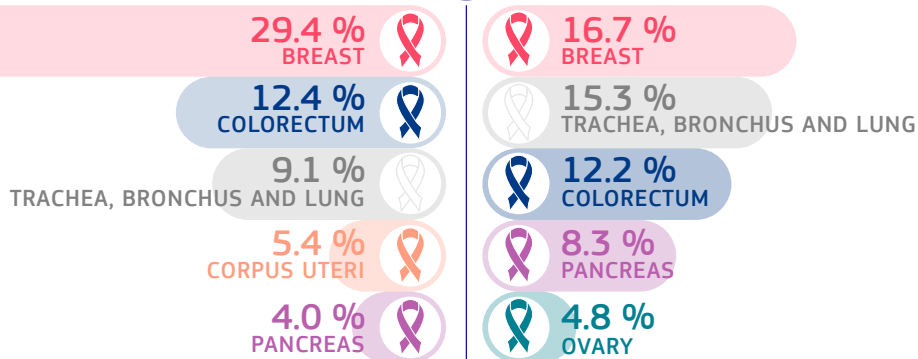
▶ **4,400**  
number of men estimated to be **diagnosed** with breast cancer in 2022

▶ **1,200**  
number of men estimated to **die** of breast cancer in 2022

### MOST COMMONLY DIAGNOSED CANCERS FOR WOMEN IN THE EU



### MOST COMMON CANCER CAUSES OF DEATH FOR WOMEN IN THE EU



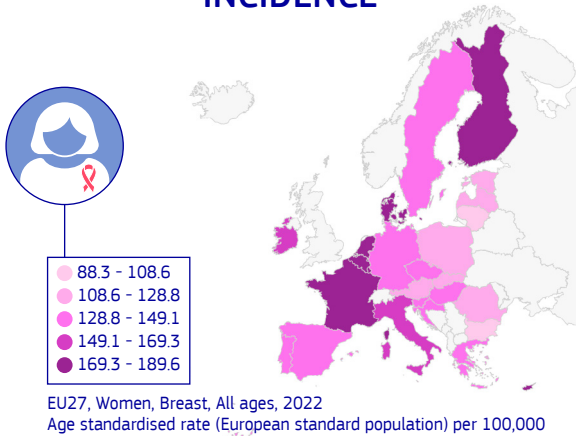
Differently from women, breast is a rare cancer in men. It was estimated to account for **0.3%** of all **diagnosed** cancers and for **0.4%** of cancer **deaths** in men.

### THE LIFETIME RISK (AGES 0-74) OF DEVELOPING BREAST CANCER

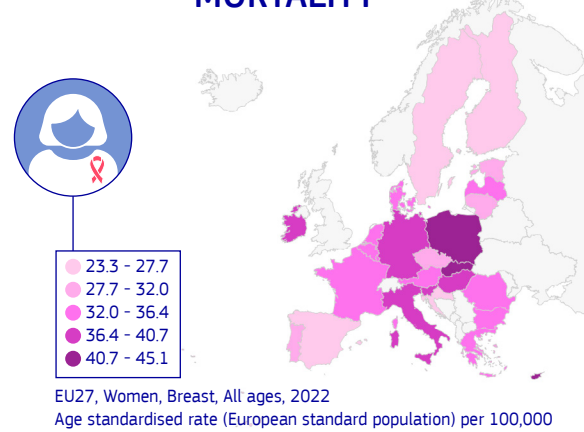


# GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION

## INCIDENCE



## MORTALITY



The estimated incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer in women varied around twofold across EU27 countries, up to 190 new cases and 45 deaths per 100,000 women.

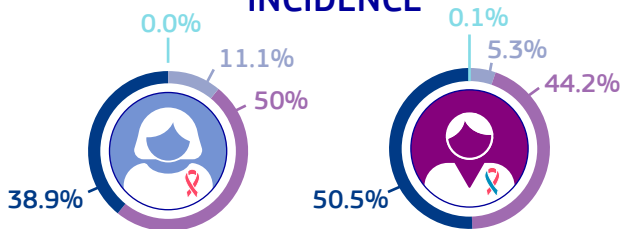
Factors contributing to the observed geographical variations of breast cancer incidence and mortality in women include implementation of organised breast cancer screening activities and the different prevalence and distribution of the major risk factors. For example, a high maternal age at first birth, a low number of births and lack of breastfeeding are factors increasing breast cancer risk.

The breast cancer mortality rates in women are decreasing in most European countries, especially Northern and Western Europe. These favorable trends reflect the advances in earlier detection (due both to screening and increasing breast cancer awareness), improvements in treatment, and the possible declining use of hormone replacement therapy after 2003.

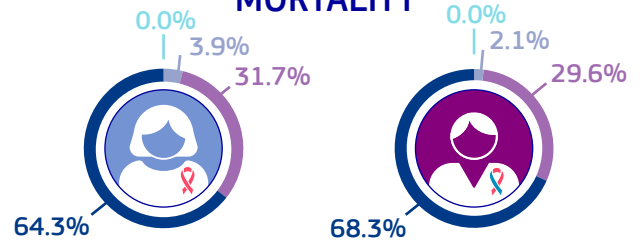
Breast cancer incidence rates were estimated below 3 new cases and mortality rates below 1 death per 100,000 men, with a noticeable geographical variation among EU countries.

# AGE DIFFERENCES

## INCIDENCE



## MORTALITY



AGE GROUPS: 0-19 20-44 45-69 70+

Half of all estimated breast cancer cases in women occurred in the age group 45-69, where there is stronger recommendation for mammographic screening.

For men, half of all estimated new cases occurred over 70 years.

Both in women and men, about two thirds of all breast cancer deaths occurred in the age group 70+.

## European Cancer Information System (ECIS)



The 2022 cancer incidence and mortality estimates are the outcome of a collaborative project between the European Commission's [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) and the [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#), the specialised cancer agency of the [World Health Organization](#), in collaboration with the [European Network of Cancer Registries \(ENCR\)](#).