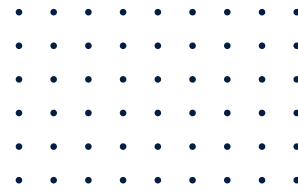


Breast Cancer in South Carolina



What is breast cancer?¹

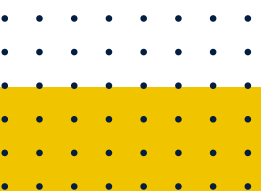
Breast cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the breast. It mostly affects women, but men can get breast cancer too. The cancer can start in one or both breasts. Most breast lumps are benign and not cancerous, but a health care professional needs to check to determine the diagnosis.

Risk Factors¹

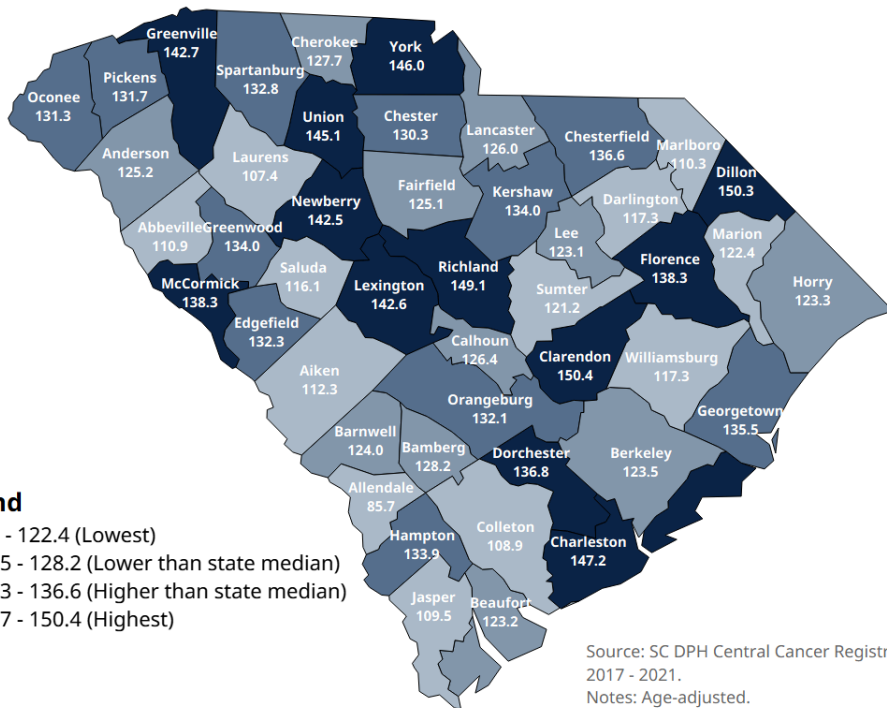
- Gene changes that run in families such as mutations in the BRCA genes can increase the risk of breast cancer
- Acquired gene mutations, not inherited from family, can occur during a person's life from factors such as radiation, cancer-causing chemicals, or from unknown causes
- Hormones, diet, and exercise can play a role in the risk of developing breast cancer

Signs and Symptoms¹

- A new lump or mass in the breast
- Swelling of all or part of the breast, even if no lump is felt
- Skin dimpling, sometimes looking like an orange peel
- Breast or nipple pain
- Nipple retraction (turning inward)
- Nipple or breast skin that is red, dry, flaking or thickened
- Nipple discharge, other than breast milk
- Swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone



Female Breast Cancer Incidence (New Cancer Cases)²



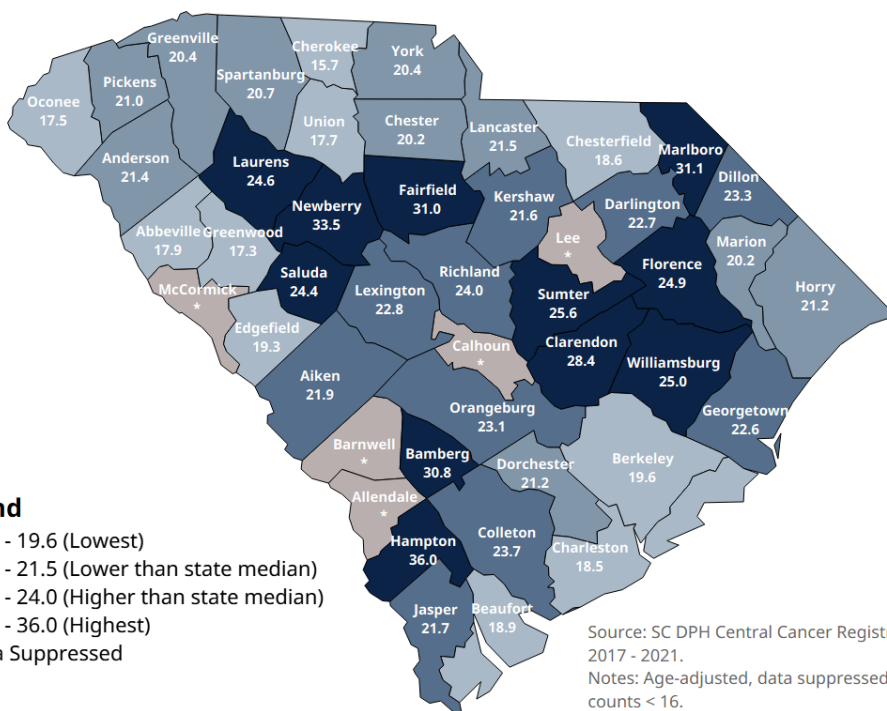
- From 2017-2021, there were **22,381 breast cancers diagnosed** in women in South Carolina, resulting in a new case rate of 133.7 per 100,000.
- In non-Hispanic White women the incidence rate was 135.9 per 100,000, in non-Hispanic Black women 132.4 per 100,000, and 96.2 per 100,000 in Hispanic women.
- In South Carolina, **66%** of breast cancer cases were diagnosed at an **early stage**.

Source: SC DPH Central Cancer Registry, 2017 - 2021.
Notes: Age-adjusted.

Legend

- 85.7 - 122.4 (Lowest)
- 122.5 - 128.2 (Lower than state median)
- 128.3 - 136.6 (Higher than state median)
- 136.7 - 150.4 (Highest)

Female Breast Cancer Mortality (Cancer Deaths)³

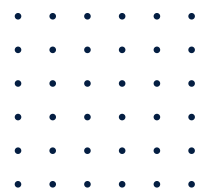


- From 2017-2021, there were 3,709 deaths due to breast cancer in South Carolina, resulting in a death rate of 21.4 per 100,000.
- Non-Hispanic Black women (27.0 per 100,000) had a **higher** death rate due to breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women (19.9 per 100,000) and Hispanic women (10.3 per 100,000) in South Carolina from 2017 - 2021.

Source: SC DPH Central Cancer Registry, 2017 - 2021.
Notes: Age-adjusted, data suppressed for counts < 16.

Legend

- 15.7 - 19.6 (Lowest)
- 19.7 - 21.5 (Lower than state median)
- 21.6 - 24.0 (Higher than state median)
- 24.1 - 36.0 (Highest)
- Data Suppressed



Early Detection^{1,2}

The US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends all women get screened for breast cancer every other year, starting at age 40 and continuing through age 74, to reduce their risk of dying from this disease.

- Regular mammograms can help find breast cancer at an early stage, when treatment is most likely to be successful.
- Women who are at a higher risk for breast cancer based on certain factors should get a breast MRI and a mammogram every year, typically starting at age 30.
- The [Best Chance Network \(BCN\)](#) is South Carolina's breast and cervical cancer early detection program that provides no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings to women who qualify.



Economic Burden⁴

Breast cancer hospitalizations accrue millions of dollars in health care charges in South Carolina each year.



Hospital Discharges

364 patients discharged due to breast cancer in 2023.



Total Charges

Over \$36 million dollars were charged due to breast cancer in 2023.



Average Charge

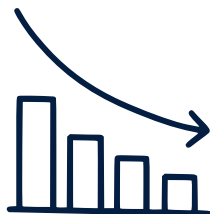
The average charge per stay was over \$120,000.



Average Hospital Stay

The average length of stay for patients was 3.7 days.

Fast Statistics on Breast Cancer



Declining Trend ³

South Carolina has seen a 22% decrease in breast cancer deaths since 1996.



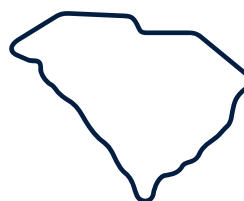
Disparities Present ³

Non-Hispanic Black women experienced 30% higher breast cancer deaths than non-Hispanic White women.



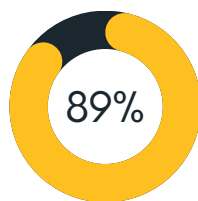
Screening Rate ⁵

Over 3 in 4 women aged 50 - 74 reported receiving a mammogram in the past two years.



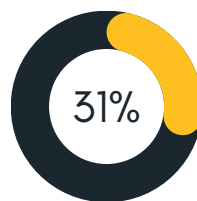
Geographic Disparities ³

Hampton County had the highest and Cherokee County had the lowest rates of breast cancer death.



Survival Rate ³

Around 89% of women diagnosed with breast cancer in South Carolina survive at least 5-years.



Late Stage Diagnoses ³

Around 31% of breast cancer cases were diagnosed at a late-stage in South Carolina.

Resources

1. American Cancer Society. (n.d.). *Information and resources for cancer: Breast, colon, lung, prostate, skin*. American Cancer Society. Retrieved August 23, 2022, from <https://www.cancer.org/>
2. 2017-2021 SC Cancer Incidence Data. SC Central Cancer Registry, Bureau of Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention, SC Department of Public Health.
3. 1996-2021 SC Cancer Mortality Data. Based on SC Vital Records Death Data file. SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Department of Public Health.
4. South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Hospital Discharge Patient-Level Dataset. Retrieved July 18, 2024 from https://rfa.sc.gov/_hd/utilization/ipquery.php
5. CDC Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System. Retrieved July 18, 2024 from <https://cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>

Contact

For more information on cancer prevention and management, contact:
Cancer Prevention and Control Section, Department of Public Health:
<https://dph.sc.gov/diseases-conditions/diseases/cancer>

For more information on cancer data and statistics in South Carolina, contact:
South Carolina Central Cancer Registry, SC Department of Public Health
803.898.8000, cancer.registry@dph.sc.gov