

Female Breast Cancer in Texas

Breast cancer starts in breast tissue. It can form in the glands, connective tissue, fatty tissue, nipple, or the blood and lymph vessels of the breast.¹

Screening: Mammography and MRI can help detect breast cancer early, which can improve survival and treatment outcomes. Women at average risk are advised to start screening at age 40. Those at higher risk may need to start screening at a younger age.²

Risk factors: Some risk factors for breast cancer cannot be changed. These include older age, a personal or family history of certain cancers, inherited gene changes, dense breast tissue, and previous radiation exposure. Other factors linked to a higher risk of breast cancer include alcohol use, higher body weight, and lower levels of physical activity.³

How Many Texans Are Impacted?



245,444

There are an estimated 245,444 breast cancer survivors in Texas (women who were diagnosed between 1995-2022 and alive as of January 1, 2023).



24,258

An estimated 24,258 Texas women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2026.



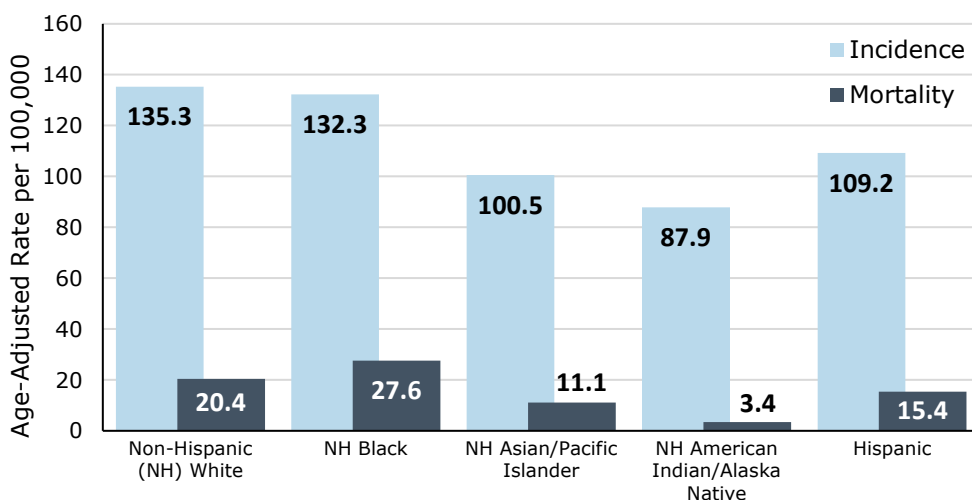
3,840

An estimated 3,840 Texas women are expected to die from breast cancer in 2026.

How Common Is Breast Cancer in Texas?

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and second leading cause of cancer death among Texas women.
- It accounts for 31% of all new female cancer cases each year.

Female Breast Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Texas, 2019-2023



- **Overall age-adjusted incidence rate:** 126.1 cases per 100,000 women
- **Overall age-adjusted mortality rate:** 19.6 deaths per 100,000 women
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Black women have a 35% higher mortality rate than NH White women, even though their incidence rate is lower.

Note: Statistics in this report are limited to invasive diagnoses of female breast cancer. Each year, approximately 4,400 *in situ* cases are diagnosed in Texas women, and an additional 200 total cases (both *in situ* and invasive) are reported among males.



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Five-Year Relative Survival for Female Breast Cancer, Early-Stage vs. Late-Stage Diagnosis ^a

Texan women who are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer are on average about 91% as likely as those without cancer to live for at least five years after their diagnosis.

Early-Stage

For invasive breast cancers, early-stage diagnoses are localized. This means the cancer is limited to the place where it started, with no sign it has spread. The five-year relative survival rate for Texas women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancers is **100%**. About 60% of new breast cancer cases are diagnosed at this stage.

Late-Stage

Late-stage diagnoses include regional cancer that has spread beyond the original tumor location to nearby tissues, organs, or lymph nodes, and distant cancer that has spread to distant organs or lymph nodes. The five-year relative survival rate for Texas women diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer is only **30%**. About one in three breast cancers are diagnosed during this stage.

Cancer stage is determined by Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Summary Stage. Early stage is defined as local, and late stage is defined as regional and distant.

Breast Cancer Incidence by Subtype

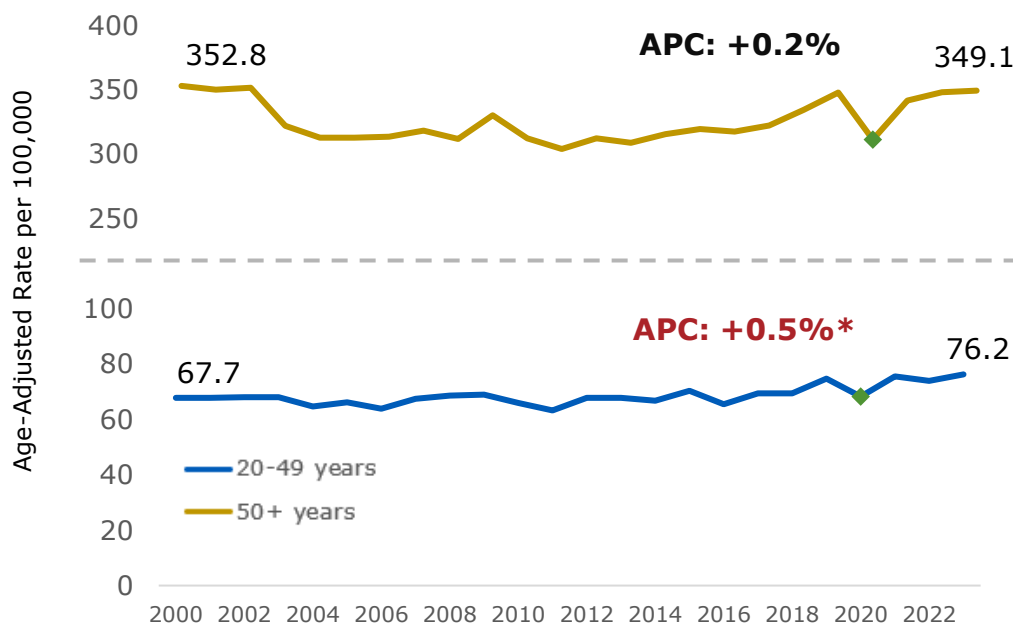
Breast cancer can be grouped into four main types based on tumor characteristics. These subtypes help guide treatment decisions and can affect survival.

HR+/HER2- (also called Luminal A) is the most common subtype among Texas women. The least common subtype is HR-/HER2+.

Subtype	% of New Cases	Rate (2019-2023)
HR+/HER2+	9%	11.0
HR-/HER2+	4%	5.0
HR+/HER2-	68%	84.5
HR-/HER2-	12%	14.9

Subtype is unknown for 8% of new breast cancer cases.

Invasive Breast Cancer Incidence Trends by Age Group, Texas, 2000-2023 ^{b, c}



- Rates of new breast cancer cases are higher in older age groups. Over the past two decades, incidence rates for Texas women 50 years and older were four to five times higher compared to rates among women ages 20-49.

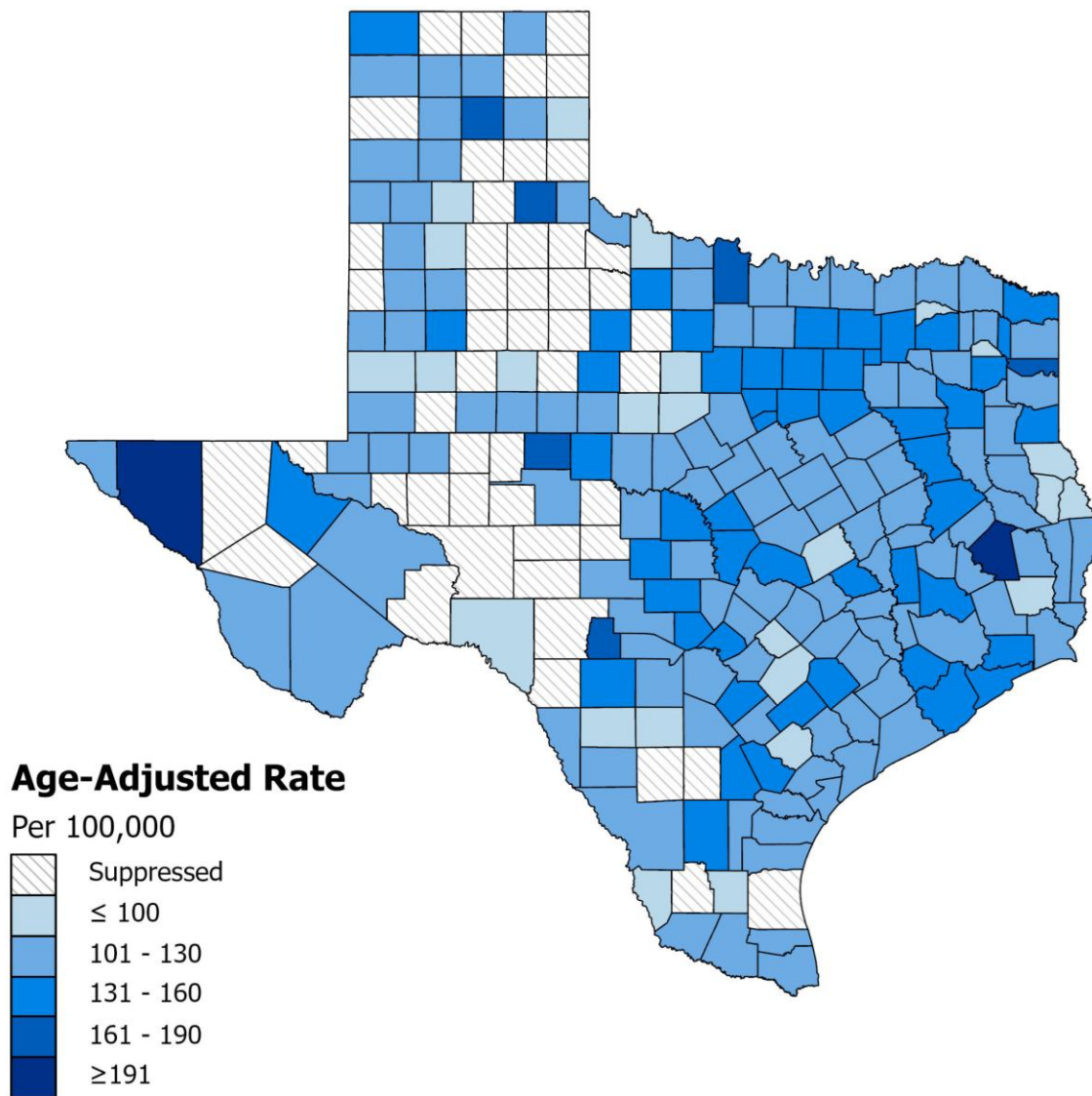
- Since 2000, breast cancer incidence rates among Texas women 50 years and older has remained stable. Rates have significantly risen by 0.5% per year among women ages 20-49.

Technical Notes:

- (a) Based on individuals diagnosed with cancer between 2016-2022 and followed through December 31, 2023. For 4% of invasive breast cancer, there is not enough information to determine a stage at diagnosis.
- (b) Diagnosis year 2020 (shown in green in graphs) was excluded from trend analyses, in accordance with National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, given the decline in cancer diagnoses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (c) APC = Annual Percent Change; Asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant change.



Invasive Breast Cancer Age-Adjusted Incidence by County, Female Only, 2019-2023



The map above shows age-adjusted female breast cancer incidence rates per 100,000 across Texas counties. The overall female breast cancer incidence rate in Texas is **126.1 cases per 100,000 women**. Rates are highest in Hudspeth County (336.3 cases per 100,000).
Counties with less than 16 reported cases are suppressed from view.

References:

- ¹ National Cancer Institute (NCI). Types of Breast Cancer. cancer.gov/types/breast/breast-cancer-types
- ² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Breast Cancer Screening. cdc.gov/breast-cancer/screening/index.html
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Breast Cancer Risk Factors. cdc.gov/breast-cancer/risk-factors/index.html

Data Sources:

- Texas Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database, 1995-2023 Incidence, 2025 Submission, cutoff 09/15/2025, created Jan. 2025.
- Texas Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database, Provisional 1990-2023 Mortality, created Jan. 2026.