

In 2010, an estimated 207,090 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the US. Of those more than 1 in 4 cancers in women, approximately 28%, are breast cancer. It is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women. This illness will afflict 1 in 8 women over the course of her lifetime simply because of her gender and the inevitable process of aging. A woman's risk doubles if she has a mother, sister or daughter than has been diagnosed with the cancer and 5-10% of breast cancers can be linked to gene mutations (abnormal changes) inherited from one's mother or father. The impact of breast cancer on a woman's body image poses many challenges physically, mentally and emotionally; as a whole a psychological dilemma. A woman's breasts are one of her most potent symbols of femininity and sexuality. Consequences can include not only the treatment(s) to eradicate the illness but also the process of having to reconstruct her breast(s) and essentially having to adjust to her body that is forever changed. Undoubtedly this affects humanity and society as a whole. However, many women have faced these challenges and have successfully overcome them with available medicinal resources and/or advancements. In 2010, there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the US.

Overall awareness of breast cancer and its symptoms, mammograms and medicinal developments have aided significantly in earlier detection thereby steadily increasing the survival rates. Medicine has made many other advances in treatment which has improved the survival rate and treatment options that are less invasive and traumatizing as possible over the years. There have been improvements in surgery,