

Key Messages



The Problem

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the number one cause of cancer death in women globally. We've made tremendous progress in treatment, as evidenced by the 44% decline in mortality since the founding of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) 30 years ago. Yet, we are at a critical inflection point as incidence continues to rise, there is still no cure for metastatic breast cancer (MBC), and glaring disparities in outcomes remain a major concern.

Our Mission

BCRF is dedicated to preventing and curing breast cancer by advancing the world's most promising research.

Quick Facts

- Founded by Evelyn H. Lauder in 1993, BCRF funds investigators who have been deeply involved in every major breakthrough in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and metastasis.
- BCRF is the largest private funder of breast cancer research—and metastatic breast cancer research—worldwide.
- BCRF is the highest-rated breast cancer research organization in the country.

**THIS YEAR, BCRF IS
SUPPORTING MORE THAN**

280+ Investigators

at leading medical and academic
institutions across 18 countries

\$75M + in scientific grants

**VISIT
[BCRF.org](https://www.bcrf.org)**

**to learn about all the ways you
can get involved.**

Our Approach

BCRF believes that research is the only means to end breast cancer. Our approach:

- Tackles breast cancer across the entire spectrum of the disease, from understanding the very roots of the disease to how it spreads.
- Fosters collaboration amongst our global legion of investigators. Research conducted in academic or industrial silos hampers progress and slows our trajectory. That’s why BCRF bridges the gap between the foremost scientists—across institutions, across disciplines, and across the globe.
- Spurs innovation. Our investigators are given the creativity and intellectual freedom to pursue their most creative, bold ideas.

Research by the Numbers

2025-2026

BCRF IS FUNDING

\$75M+
in scientific grants

\$50 = 1 hour of research

\$250K = 1 full research grant

BCRF IS FUNDING

280+ Researchers
comprised of more than 50 %
female scientists

THE FDA HAS APPROVED

23 Drugs over the past 15 years

18 Drugs over the past 10 years

BCRF IS SUPPORTING
MORE THAN

260 Research Projects

11 Drugs over the past 5 years

SHORT EXAMPLE MESSAGE

Over the last decade, the FDA has approved 18 new treatments for breast cancer based on the clinical findings of BCRF investigators and others.

LONGER EXAMPLE MESSAGE

Over the last decade, the FDA has approved 18 new treatments for breast cancer based on the clinical findings of BCRF investigators and others. Ten of those treatments were approved over the last five years alone.

What We've Achieved

IMPACT STATEMENTS

- We've made incredible progress over the last 30 years, as evidenced by the **44 % decline in deaths from breast cancer** since 1993.
- While research is typically built brick by brick, with breakthroughs building on each other over time, in the last decade we've been progressing by leaps and bounds thanks to advancements in technology and our understanding of the disease.
 - There have been more novel treatments for breast cancer developed in the last decade than in the prior three decades, combined.
 - A recent study identified a **58% decline in breast cancer mortality since 1975**, thanks primarily in part to better treatments.
 - Over the last 10 years we've seen more patients living with metastatic breast cancer, which is evidence that we're improving control of the disease.
- Thanks to research, patients with metastatic breast cancer have more treatment options than ever before.
 - Over the last decade, the FDA has approved **18 new treatments** for breast cancer based on the clinical findings of BCRF investigators and others. 11 of those treatments were approved in the last five years alone.
 - In 2024, an estimated 200,000 women are living with metastatic breast cancer, up from about 140,000 people in 2014—evidence that **we are successfully extending the lives of women with MBC**.
 - Improvements in survival for those living with metastatic breast cancer have been **highest in the last 10 years due to better treatments**. In fact, there have been more novel therapies approved in the past decade than in the 30 years prior, combined.

7 NEW TREATMENTS

11 NEW TREATMENTS

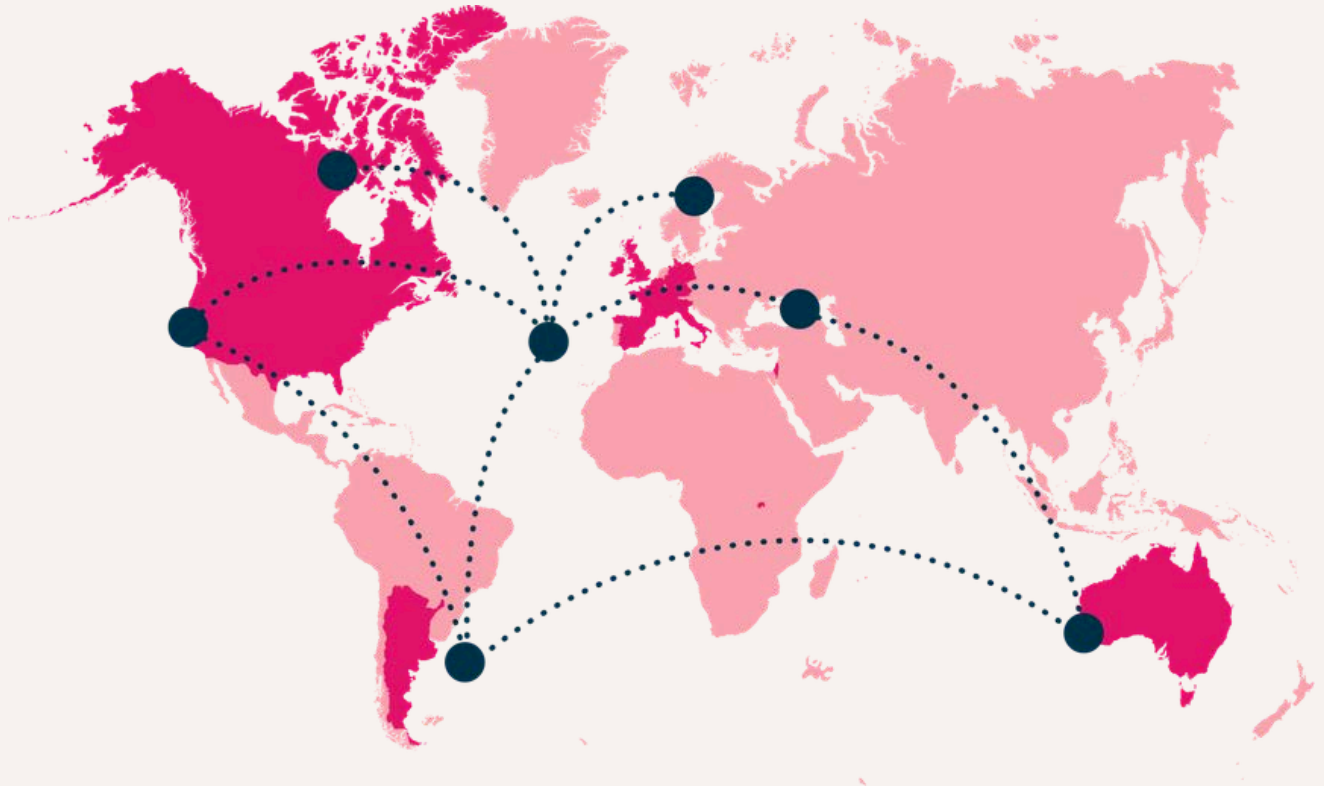
2016-2021

2022-2026

What We've Achieved, Continued

IMPACT STATEMENTS

- We convene the best minds in science and give them the opportunity to pursue their most innovative ideas, fostering collaboration across disciplines.
 - Most BCRF researchers are in collaboration. On average, each BCRF investigator collaborates with three to six other BCRF investigators, many of which happen at BCRF events and touchpoints throughout the year.



- Thanks to research, we're finding more targeted treatments for the most aggressive forms of breast cancer like triple-negative breast cancer.
- Thanks to research, we are harnessing the power of AI to more accurately diagnose breast cancer, and even predict future cancer.
- Thanks to research, we're improving the technology used to screen women with dense breasts, which pose an elevated risk of disease and are disproportionately present in younger women.
- Research is critical to improve treatment options and end breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Progress depends on investing in research that attacks breast cancer from all angles.
- Breast cancer is a complex disease with no simple solution. Every diagnosis puts lives at risk. Answers are within reach, and we need them urgently.
- Since our founding in 1993, we've changed the trajectory of breast cancer, and cancer as a whole. The field is moving faster than ever, and we are leading the charge.

Statistics: Breast Cancer

GLOBAL STATISTICS

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, with an expected 2.3 million new cases each year.
- Every 14 seconds, somewhere in the world, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Globally, breast cancer causes the greatest number of cancer-related deaths among women.
- Globally, in 2020, it is estimated that 685,000 women died from breast cancer.
- More countries are reporting breast cancer as the most common cancer in women.
- By 2050, new breast cancer cases will have increased by 38% and deaths by 68%.
- Countries with a low Human Development Index (HDI) are disproportionately impacted by breast cancer deaths.
- 1 in 20 women worldwide will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- By 2050, there will be 3.2 million new breast cancer cases and 1.1 million breast cancer-related deaths per year, and the growth will disproportionately affect countries with a low Human Development Index (HDI).



KEY MESSAGE

Global breast cancer trends underscore the growing public health issue posed by breast cancer and the projections are expected to be dire—deaths from breast cancer are expected to increase by a staggering 68%. Breast cancer diagnoses in underdeveloped countries are particularly dangerous compared to developed nations—with incidence on the rise in these nations, more lives are at stake. It has never been more urgent to develop breakthroughs and interventions that transcend borders.

Statistics: Breast Cancer, Continued

IN THE U.S.

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women (except for non-melanoma skin cancers).
- In the U.S. in 2026, an estimated 321,910 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer [and an additional 60,730 cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) diagnosed, and 2,670 cases in men].
- Around 1 in 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer are younger than 45.
- Female breast cancer incidence rates have been slowly increasing by about 1 % per year, likely due to multiple factors including the decline in fertility rates and increases in excess body weight.
- About 1 in 8 (13%) women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. (About 1 in 833 American males will develop invasive breast cancer.)
- About 1 in 3 breast cancer patients will have their cancer return—metastatic breast cancer.
- Every two minutes, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women, after lung cancer. In 2026, an estimated 42,700 breast cancer deaths (42,170 in women, 530 in men) will occur.

A NEW DIAGNOSIS OCCURS EVERY

2 Minutes
for women in the United States

321,910

invasive cases in
women

60,730

DCIS cases
in women

1 in 8

women will be
diagnosed
(about 13%)

1 in 3

patients see their cancer
return as metastatic disease

~1%

yearly rise in incidence
among women

Statistics: Breast Cancer, Continued

IN THE U.S.

- There are more than **four million breast cancer survivors** in the U.S. today.
- Deaths from breast cancer have **decreased by 44% since 1989**.
- As a result of this decline, **460,000 lives have been saved**.
- However, the pace of the decline has slowed, from almost 2% annually during the early 2000s to 1.3% per year from 2011 to 2020.
- The decrease in mortality has stopped for younger women.
- Between 1975-2019, there has been a 58% decrease in deaths
- Decrease in mortality has specifically been the highest over the last decade due to improved treatments.
- Cancer incidence rate in women under 50 was 82% higher than in male counterparts.
- Breast cancer comprises the majority of cancer incidence in women, including women under 50. (Other cancers that have seen significant increases in incidence in younger women include colorectal and lung.)
- The disproportionate increase in cancer incidence in women, particularly younger women, places the disease at the center of women’s health across all age groups. The urgency to improve breast cancer care and prevention, which continues to be the most common cancer in women, has become even more acute as younger women often face harsher realities such as more aggressive disease and later-stage diagnoses.

When caught early, survival rates are the highest they’ve ever been:

- The average five-year relative survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer is **91%**.
- The five-year relative survival rate for women with localized breast cancer (no sign it has spread outside of the breast) is **99%**.
- The five-year survival rate for women with regional breast cancer (cancer that has spread outside the breast to nearby structures or lymph nodes) is **86%**.
- However, the five-year survival rate for women with cancer that has spread to distant parts of the body is **31%**.

