

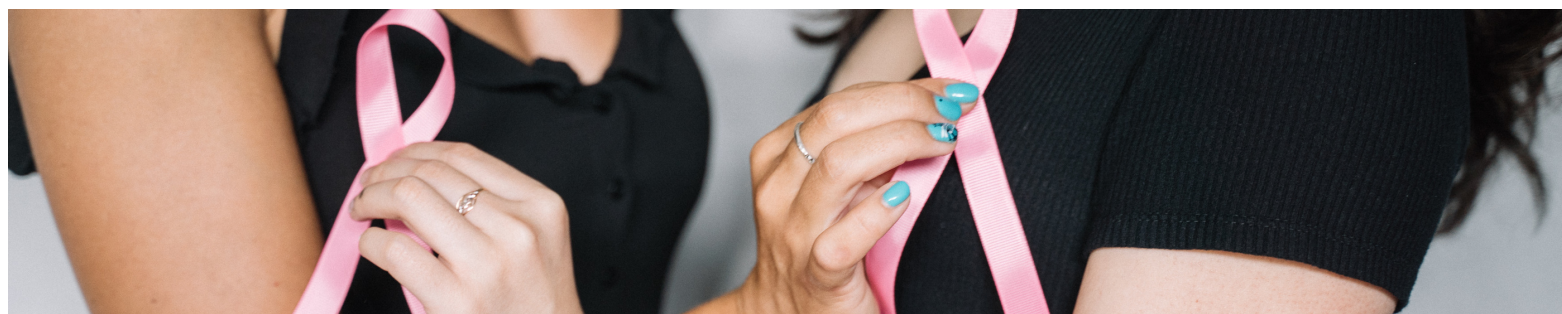
BREAST CANCER

PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Harford County
Health Department

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OVERVIEW OF BREAST CANCER

Breast Cancer is the most common cancer in American women, apart from skin cancers.¹ Some people do not have warning signs or symptoms which is why mammograms are essential to early detection

Common types of breast cancer:

- **Invasive ductal carcinoma** begins in the ducts and then the tumor grows outside the ducts into other parts of breast tissue.
- **Invasive lobular carcinoma** begins in the lobules and then the cancer spreads to nearby breast tissues.

Invasive cancer cells can also spread to other areas of the body for the above types of breast cancer.

INCIDENCE

Harford County is tied for the 3rd highest case rate of breast cancer in Maryland. Breast Cancer has the highest incidence rate of all cancers in Harford County.²

Incidence of Female Breast Cancer, 2014-2018²

| | Harford | Maryland | United States |
|------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Rate per 100,000 | 145 | 132 | 127 |

Mammograms are the current gold standard for early detection of breast cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends mammograms for average-risk women ages 45 to 54 every year and women 55 and older every other year.³ According to the 2021 County Health Rankings, the percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74 that received an annual mammography screening was 45% in Harford County compared to 42% in Maryland.³ This percentage is based on 2018 data from Mapping Medicare Disparities. Note that this percentage could be underestimated due to the current recommendation of women 55 and over to get a mammogram every 2 years instead of every year.

Sources:
1. American Cancer Society. Breast Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>
2. CDC. Cancer Statistics at a Glance. <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/#/ATA/Glance/>
3. County Health Rankings. Mammography Screening. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/maryland/2021/measure/factors/50/data>
4. CDC. Male Breast Cancer Incidence and Mortality, United States - 2013-2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs/about/data-briefs/no19-male-breast-cancer-incidence-mortality-UnitedStates-2013-2017.htm>
5. Susan G. Komen. Male Breast Cancer. <https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer/facts-statistics/male-breast-cancer/>
6. University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health. Kaufman Cancer Center Data.

SPOTLIGHT: BREAST CANCER IN MEN

While the incidence of male breast cancer is still rare compared to female breast cancer, the CDC reports that 1 out of every 100 breast cancer diagnoses in the United States is found in a man.¹ Additionally, breast cancer found in men is more likely to be found at later stages. This is likely due to men ignoring lumps in the breast or not being aware of warning signs of breast cancer. In 2017, there were approximately 2,300 new cases and 500 deaths of male breast cancer in the United States, which accounted for about 1% of all breast cancers. In addition, non-Hispanic Black men had the highest incidence compared to other racial groups with 1.89 cases per 100,000.⁴

TREATMENT IN HARFORD COUNTY⁶

University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and Harford Memorial Hospital track those that are diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. While a spike is seen in the number of treated cases in 2013, this could be due to the Kaufman Cancer Center opening in 2013, leading to an increase in those people treated for breast cancer in Harford County.

