



South Australia 2007 figures

number of cases	1,107
number of deaths	251
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	116.4
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	24.0
risk of developing cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 11

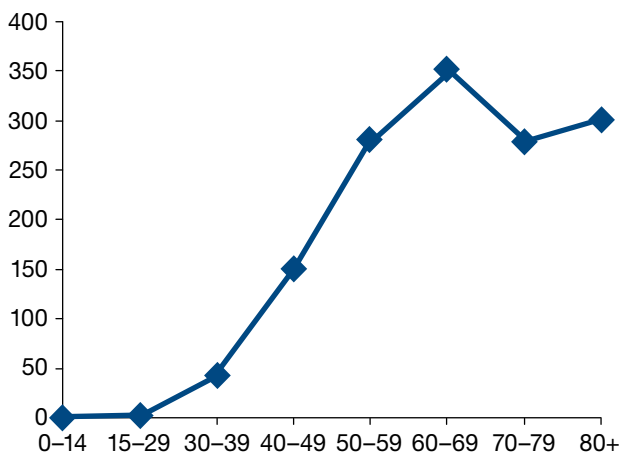
*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

Breast cancer is rare in women under 30 years of age but incidence rates increase steadily with age after 30 years of age, with the highest rate being among those aged 60–69 years. Rates decline slightly from 70 of age years but remain relatively high.

Age specific female breast cancer incidence (annual average rate/100,000 SA 1998–2007)



Country of birth

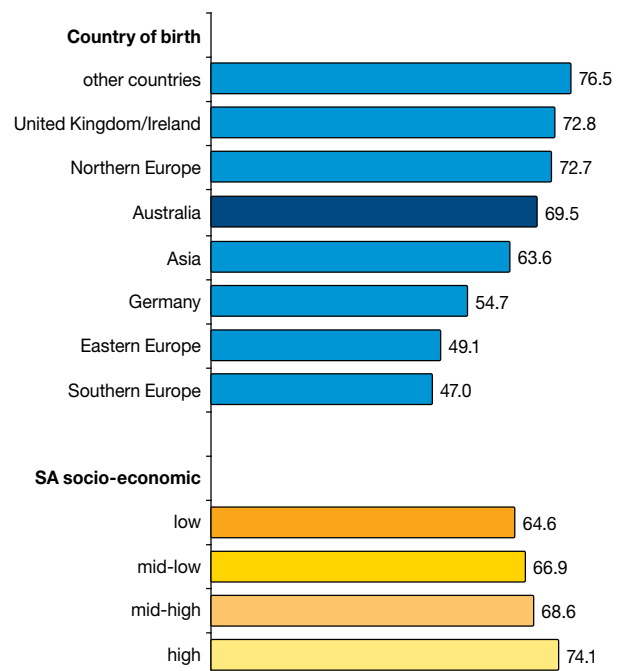
Within South Australia, female residents born overseas had an incidence about 8% lower than the Australian born during 1977–2000. This was partly due to low incidence rates for those born in Germany, Eastern Europe and Southern Europe.

SES/region

South Australian women residing in upper socio-economic areas had an elevated incidence during 1977–2001. Similar socio-economic trends have been reported in other populations.

Women residing in Adelaide had an incidence in 1977–2001 about 5% higher than their country counterparts. Incidence rates were higher in the Southern and Eastern regions than in the Western and potentially the Northern region of Adelaide. Country area differences in female breast cancer were within the ranges attributable to chance.

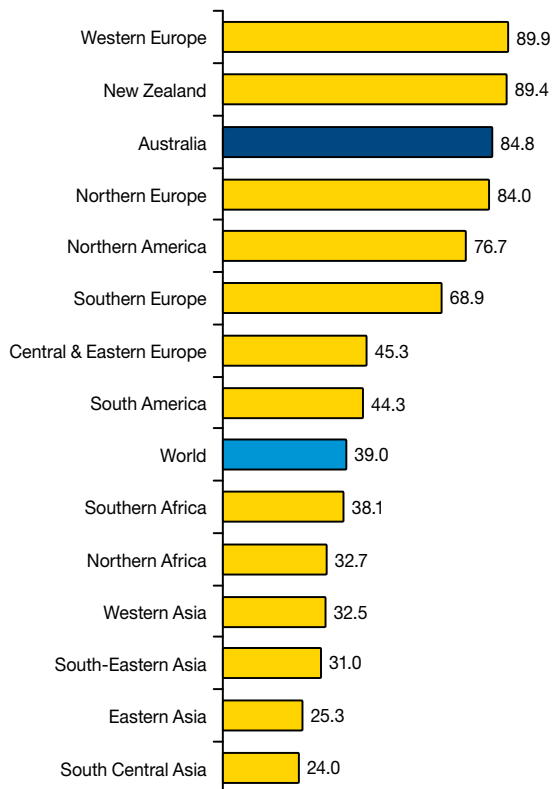
Female breast cancer incidence by country of birth and SES (annual rate/100,000, SA 1977–2001, ASR World population)



Global comparisons

Australian, New Zealand and Western Europe females have a relatively high incidence of breast cancer. The incidence of breast cancer varies approximately fourfold among females worldwide. Breast cancer rates are generally lowest in less developed regions of the world.

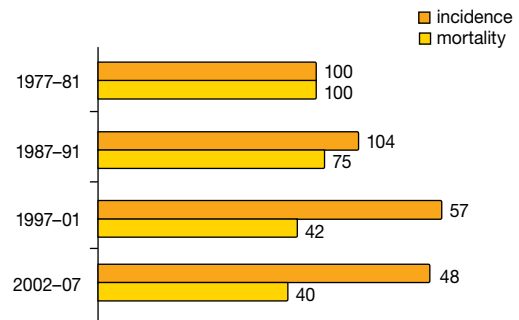
Breast female cancer Incidence rates by regions of the world (rate/100,000 ASR World population, Globocan 2008)



Trends

The incidence of female breast cancer increased by 60% from 1977/81 to 1997/01, and has remained high in 2002–2007, with most of the increase occurring after population screening mammography began in the late 1980s. This would reflect the increased detection of small cancers in the age range targeted for screening (50–69 years). While mortality rates were relatively stable during 1977–96, there was a drop of 9% between 1992–96 and 1997–2001, which also has continued in 2002–07. This is attributed to early effects of mammography screening, plus treatment advances.

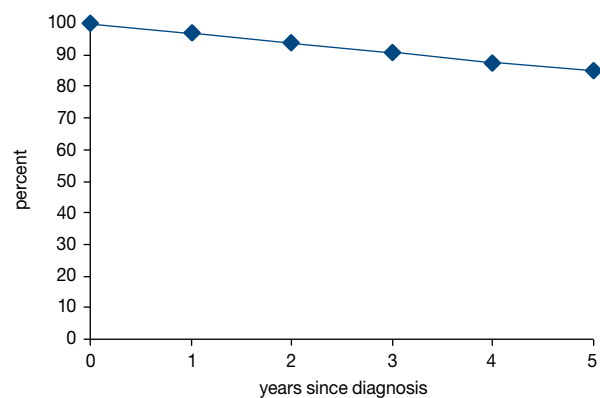
Trends in female breast cancer Incidence and mortality rates in SA (rates for 1977–81 set at '100')



Survival

Survival outcomes from breast cancer are quite favourable with 85% of women diagnosed between 1997 and 2003 surviving their cancer for five years or more. Rates have improved significantly over the past two decades when compared with women diagnosed between 1977 and 1981 of when only 72% survived five years or more.

Survival from female breast cancer SA, 1997–2003



Risk factors

Risk factors for female breast cancer include:

- a family history, a genetic predisposition (responsible for up to 5% of cancers)
- early onset menstruation or late menopause
- a history of no pregnancies or a late first full-term pregnancy
- high body weight after menopause.

Risk also may be increased when diets are low in vegetables and fruit and high in total fat and saturated/animal fat, and there is a high alcohol intake. Recent research indicates that prolonged use of hormone replacement therapy with combined oestrogen and progestin, or with oestrogen alone, can increase the risk of female breast cancer.

Data sources:

- Cancer Registry reports, South Australian Department of Health
- Globocan 2008, IARC.