

Female Breast Cancer in South Dakota



Signs and Symptoms

Breast cancer often does not have any obvious symptoms.

Warning signs may include:

- New lump in the breast or underarm (armpit)
- Thickening or swelling of the breast
- Irritation or dimpling of the breast skin
- Redness or flaky skin in the nipple area
- Pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk, including blood
- Any change in the size or shape of the breast
- Pain in any area of the breast

Female breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in South Dakota.

In 2026, approximately 860 women will receive a diagnosis of invasive breast cancer in South Dakota (SD), and 90 women will die from the disease.¹

Incidence

In the United States (US), incidence rates of invasive female breast cancer decreased by 2.3% per year from 2000 to 2004. However, from 2016 to 2023, rates steadily increased by approximately 1.3% per year.² This increase may be attributed to a rise in the prevalence of obesity and changes in reproductive patterns, such as a decrease in the fertility rate and an increase in the age at first childbirth.¹

In SD from 2002 to 2022, breast cancer incidence trends remained stable.³ According to the SD Cancer Registry (SDCR), there were 744 reported cases of invasive female breast cancer in 2023, accounting for 13.1% of all reportable cancer cases and 29.3% of all invasive cancer cases among women.⁵ From 2019 to 2023, the age-adjusted incidence rate was 132.8, with American Indian (AI) women having a lower rate (127.0) than White women (138.1).⁵

Nearly 7 in 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer from 2016 to 2020 had **localized stage disease**

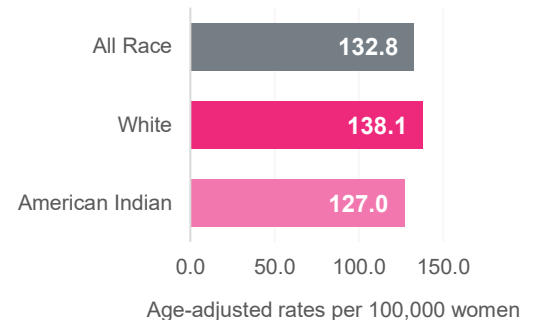
Topics

Incidence of Breast Cancer P. 1

Mortality, Survival, and Risk Factors P. 2

Screening P. 3-4

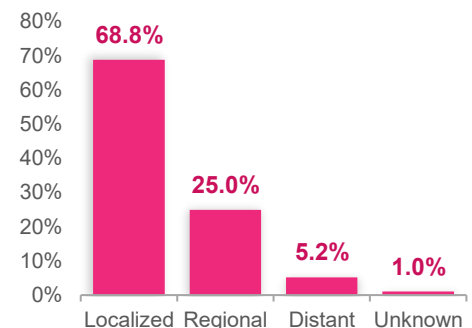
Age-Adjusted Breast Cancer Incidence by Race in SD, 2019-2023



Data Source: South Dakota Cancer Registry

Stage at Diagnosis

A stage at diagnosis is applied to assess the spread of cancer. Among the 3,547 invasive cases diagnosed from 2019 to 2023, 2,442 cases were diagnosed at a localized stage, representing 68.8% of all reported breast cancer cases. Additionally, 25% of all cases were diagnosed at a regional stage, while 5.2% were diagnosed as a distant stage in SD.⁵



Data Source: South Dakota Cancer Registry

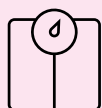
Female breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

Lifestyle Risk Factors

Strong Evidence suggests that the following factors **increase the risk** of breast cancer:



Alcohol Intake



High BMI



Physical Inactivity

Other Risk Factors

Age: The risk of breast cancer increases with age

Family history: 5% of cancer cases are genetic

Early periods: Before age 12

Late menopause: After age 55 can increase risk of breast cancer



1 in 8 women will be **diagnosed** with **breast cancer** in their lifetime.



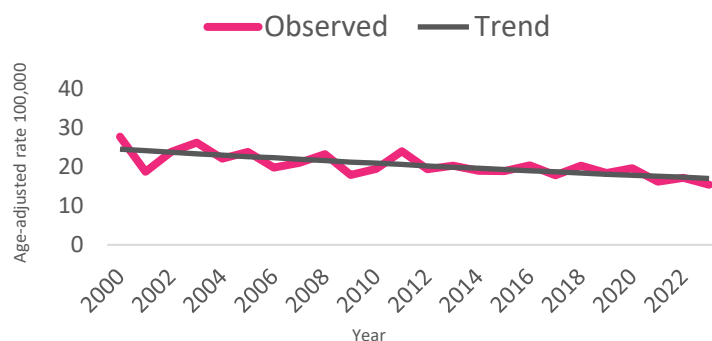
Mortality

In SD, female breast cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women.⁵ Nationwide, breast cancer mortality rates have decreased approximately 1.2% per year from 2009 to 2024.² In SD, similar trends are observed, with mortality rates decreasing 1.6% per year from 2000 to 2023.³

In 2023, there were 92 reported deaths from breast cancer in the state.⁴

The death rate was 15.5 per 100,000 women in 2023, which was a lower rate in comparison to the death rate of 17.2 in 2022.⁴

However, when considering 5-year aggregated data (2019-2023), there were 513 deaths, and the overall mortality rate was 17.3. Mortality rates among AI women (29.3) were approximately 73% higher than rates among White women (16.9).⁴



Data Source: NCI State Cancer Profiles³

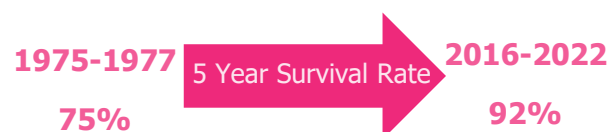
Breast cancer mortality rates have been **declining** in South Dakota

Note: South Dakota age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 women, *in situ* cases excluded.

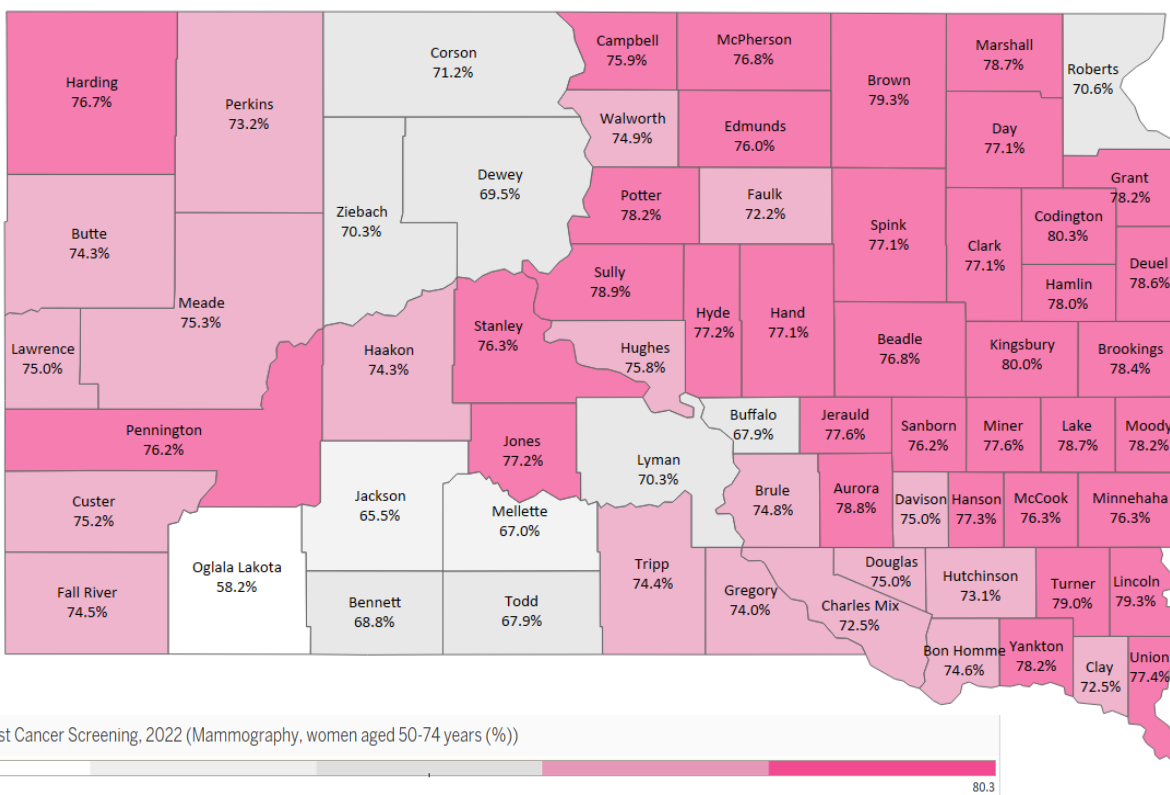
Survival

The survival rates for invasive breast cancer are relatively high, with a 5-year relative survival rate at 91.9%. This is attributed to two-thirds of women being diagnosed with localized stage disease, which is associated with better outcomes.

The **survival** rate for breast cancer is **increasing**



Percentage of Women aged 50-74 Years Who Reported Receiving a Mammogram Within the Last 2 Years, BRFSS 2022, All Races and Ethnicities, Age-Adjusted Prevalence (CDC)⁸



Screening

Early detection is key for breast cancer survival. Breast cancers that are found during a mammogram are more likely to be smaller and still confined to the breast. Although current US Preventative Services Task Force guidelines recommend mammography every two years for women aged 40 to 74, the most recent available screening data shown above reflect women aged 50 to 74.

The [Healthy People 2030](#) Objective C-05 is to increase the proportion of women who receive breast cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines. The target is 80.3%.⁷

Early breast cancer detection saves lives.

According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) in 2022, 72.3% of women aged 50-74 years had a mammogram within the past two years in SD, slightly lower than the national rate of 76.5%.⁸ However, disparities in breast cancer screening persist. In 2022, the percentage of AI women reporting being up to date was 38.6%, which is 36.9% lower than the rate for White women at 75.5%.⁸ Furthermore, the latest county-level data in breast cancer screening rates, as presented in the map above, highlights the existence of geographical differences in the state.

The All Women Count! Program

What is the All Women Count Program?

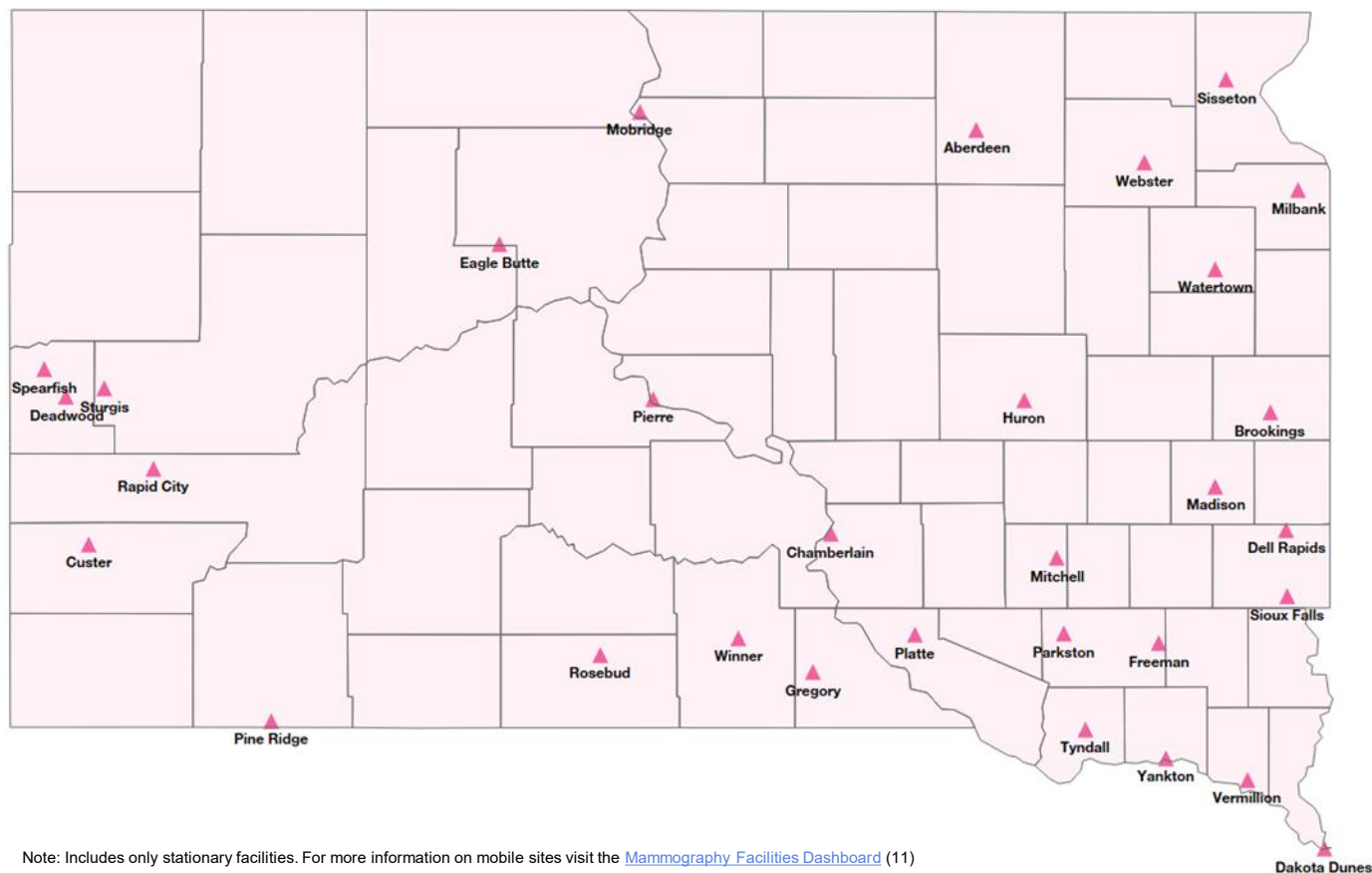
The All Women Count! (AWC!) Program is a statewide breast and cervical cancer screening program for age and income eligible women in South Dakota.⁹ The AWC! Program partners with over 200 health care facilities across the state to provide breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to women aged 30 to 64 who have a family income at or below 250% federal poverty level. Visit <https://www.getscreenedsd.org/awc> to learn more!

How many women are enrolled and screened for breast cancer?

Five-Year Summary (July 2020 to June 2025)¹⁰

- Women served: 5,656
- Women screened for breast cancer: 3,381
- Mammograms provided: 3,977
- Breast cancers detected: 70
- Rate detection (per 1,000 mammograms): 20.7

Location of Mammography Facilities in South Dakota, 2026



References:

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5. South Dakota Cancer Registry. Department of Health, Pierre, SD. May 2026.
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11. South Dakota Cancer Coalition. Breast Cancer Dashboard/ Location of mammography Facilities. <https://www.cancersd.com/resources/breast-cancer-dashboard/>



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