

Ovarian Cancer Statistics

Each year in the United States, more than 21,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 15,000 women die of the disease. The American Cancer Society estimates that about 21,550 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed in the United States during 2009.¹ 14,600 deaths are expected to be caused by ovarian cancer in the United States in 2009.

According to the data, the mortality rates for ovarian cancer have not improved in thirty years since the “War on Cancer” was declared. However, other cancers have shown a marked reduction in mortality, due to the availability of early detection tests and improved treatments. Unfortunately, this is not the case with ovarian cancer, which is still the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers.

The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program reports that on January 1, 2006 in the United States approximately 176,007 women were alive who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer (including those who had been cured of the disease).²

Ovarian Cancer Incidence and Death Count in the United States³ (age-adjusted)

Year	Incidence	Death Count
2009	21,500 (estimated)	14,600 (estimated)
2005	19,842	14,787
2004	20,069	14,716
2003	20,445	14,657
2002	19,792	14,682
2001	19,719	14,414
2000	19,672	14,060
1999	19,676	13,627

Ovarian cancer accounts for approximately 3 percent of cancers in women.⁴

While the ninth most common cancer among women, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death among women, and is the deadliest of gynecologic cancers. Mortality rates are slightly higher for Caucasian women than for minority women.

A WOMAN’S LIFETIME RISK:

- A woman’s lifetime risk of developing invasive ovarian cancer is 1 in 71.⁵
- A woman’s lifetime risk of dying from invasive ovarian cancer is 1 in 95.

AGE:

Ovarian cancer primarily develops in women over 45. From 2002 to 2006, the median age at diagnosis was 63.⁶

Approximate Age at Diagnosis F/Y 2002 - 2006

Age	Percent diagnosed
Under 20	1.3 percent
Between 20 and 34	3.5 percent
Between 35 and 44	7.4 percent
Between 45 and 54	18.9 percent
Between 55 and 64	22.3 percent
Between 65 and 74	19.9 percent
Between 75 and 84	19.0 percent
85 and older	7.6 percent

From 2002 to 2006, the median age of death from ovarian cancer was 71.

SURVIVAL:

Ovarian cancer survival rates are much lower than other cancers that affect women.

- Overall, the ten-year relative survival rate for ovarian cancer patients is 39%.⁷
- The relative five-year survival rate is 46 percent. Survival rates vary depending on the stage of diagnosis.
- Women diagnosed at an early stage have a much higher five-year survival rate than those diagnosed at a later stage.
- Fewer than 20 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early.

Survival Rate and Diagnosis for Varied Stages (1999-2005)⁸

Stage at diagnosis	Five-year relative Survival Rate	Percentage of Total Women Diagnosed
Localized (cancer is limited to organ from which it originated)	93.8	15 percent
Regional (cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes or organs and tissue)	72.8	17 percent
Distant (cancer has spread to distant organs or lymph nodes)	28.2	62 percent
Unstaged (not enough information to identify a stage)	27.3	7 percent

Comparison of cancer survival rates:

- Women diagnosed with breast cancer in 1975 experienced a five-year survival rate of 75.3 percent⁹; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 89 percent.
- Women diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1975 experienced a five-year survival rate of 69 percent; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 71 percent.
- Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1975 experienced a five-year survival rate of 34.8 percent; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 46 percent.

**TRENDS IN SEVERAL WOMEN’S CANCERS
(Average annual percent change)**

	Ovarian	Breast	Cervical
Trends in U.S. Cancer Incidence 1997 to 2006 (SEER 9 delay adjusted incidence)	Decreased 1.5 percent	Decreased 1.2 percent	Decreased 3.5 percent
Trends in U.S. Cancer Mortality 1997 to 2006	Decreased 0.4 percent	Decreased 2.0 percent	Decreased 2.8 percent

In the United States, doctors must report any diagnosis of cancer to a state registry. The federal government, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Program of Cancer Registries, oversees the registries in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories. The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute funds the remaining five statewide cancer registries. Together, the two programs cover the country’s population.

The statistics presented here come primarily from the most recent findings of the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute. The results are age-adjusted and based on the United States population. 2006 is the most recent year for which ovarian cancer statistics are available. More recent numbers are estimates from the *American Cancer Society’s Cancer Facts and Figures 2009*.

For more information, visit:

- The National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program at <http://seer.cancer.gov/>
- The CDC’s National Program of Cancer Registries Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/uscs/index.htm>.

¹ American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2009*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2009.

² M. J. Horner, L. A. G. Ries, M. Krapcho, N. Neyman, R. Aminou, N. Howlader, S. F. Altekruse, E. J. Feuer, L. Huang, A. Mariotto, B. A. Miller, D. R. Lewis, M. P. Eisner, D. G. Stinchcomb, E. K. Edwards, eds. *SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975-2006*. National Cancer Institute, 2009. http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2006.

³ U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. *United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2005 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute, 2009. www.cdc.gov/uscs.

⁴ *Cancer Facts & Figures 2009*.

⁵ American Cancer Society, *Detailed Guide: Ovarian Cancer*.

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_ovarian_cancer_33.asp?sitearea (accessed June 16, 2009).

⁶ *SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975-2006*.

⁷ *Cancer Facts & Figures 2009*.

⁸ *SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1975-2006*.

⁹ *Ibid.*

Ovarian Cancer by State (2009)

STATE	Incidence	Death
AL	330	270
AK	*	*
AZ	450	290
AR	190	130
CA	2,390	1580
CO	340	210
CT	290	180
DE	70	*
DC	*	*
FL	1,560	970
GA	580	400
HI	90	50
ID	100	50
IL	820	600
IN	420	340
IA	210	170
KS	190	150
KY	280	210
LA	280	210
ME	120	70
MD	420	260
MA	540	350
MI	740	520
MN	390	240
MS	170	140
MO	400	290
MT	80	50
NE	120	90
NV	180	120
NH	110	60
NJ	680	450
NM	140	90
NY	1,530	970
NC	630	430
ND	*	*
OH	820	580
OK	260	170
OR	300	220
PA	1,070	760
RI	90	60
SC	310	210
SD	60	50
TN	430	310
TX	1,420	890
UT	140	90
VT	50	*
VA	530	380
WA	510	340
WV	150	120
WI	420	300
WY	*	*
US	21,550	14,600

* <50 cases or deaths