



New Zealand Breast Cancer Statistics 2020

Registrations

- Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer to affect women in New Zealand. In 2020, 3,440 women were diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Breast cancer accounted for just over 27 percent of all female cancers in 2020.
- In 2020, 394 women aged 25 to 44 years were registered as having breast cancer equating to 11.5 per cent of all women diagnosed.
- In 2020, 38 men were diagnosed with breast cancer, just over one percent of all breast cancer registrations.

Deaths

- Breast cancer was the second most common cause of death from cancer for women in 2020, with 638 women dying from breast cancer. In 2020, 3 men died from breast cancer.
- In people aged 25–44 years the most common cause of cancer death was breast cancer for females.
- Breast cancer accounted for 13.6 percent of female cancer deaths in 2020.
- Rates of death from breast cancer have trended downwards since 2004. In 2013, 17.7 per 100,000¹ succumbed to the disease. In 2020, the death rate was 14.6 per 100,000¹.

Māori

- In 2020, Māori women were more likely than non-Māori women to get breast cancer (rate 121.5 per 100,000 for Māori women compared with 89.6 per 100,000 for non-Māori²).
- In 2020, 74 Māori women died from breast cancer – this equated to a mortality rate of 18.2 per 100,000, or 1.3 times the rate among non-Māori (14.1 per 100,000).
- In the decade 2004 to 2013 the age-standardised mortality rates for Māori and non-Māori women were variable, but overall both showed a downward trend. This downward trend continued from 2014 to 2020.

1. These figures are age-standardised.

2. These rates are expressed per 100,000 population and age standardised to the WHO World Standard population.

Sources

Te Whatu Ora Cancer Web Tool 27 April 2023. Wellington: Ministry of Health. Available at <https://tewhatauora.shinyapps.io/cancer-web-tool/>. Accessed 16 June 2023.

Ministry of Health. 2016. Cancer: New registrations and deaths 2013. Wellington: Ministry of Health.