

# PEI Breast Cancer Trends Report Summary

## KEY MESSAGES

- The PEI Cancer Registry in collaboration with the Cancer Treatment Centre, Health PEI, and the PEI Chief Public Health Office has produced a statistical report about the state of breast cancer in PEI.
- Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in PEI, Canada, and worldwide.
- Breast cancer has the second highest cancer mortality rate in Canadian women.
- In the last 10 years, the average number of breast cancer cases diagnosed in PEI was 114 per year.
- The risk of breast cancer in women has not significantly changed in the last 30 years
- The risk of breast cancer increases as women grow older until they are 80 years and older at which point the risk decreases. Approximately half of all breast cancer cases that are diagnosed are in women age 50-69.
- Over 80% of cases of breast cancer are diagnosed at an earlier stage (stages I and II). Survival is improved when cancers are diagnosed at an early stage.
- Approximately 20 Island women a year die from breast cancer.
- Deaths due to breast cancer have been decreasing over time likely due to early detection from breast cancer screening and improved treatments.
- The chance of surviving a breast cancer diagnosis 5 years or longer is excellent at 90%.
- However, stage IV breast cancer has poor 5-year survival at 24%. Detecting breast cancer at its earliest stages increases the survival rate.
- There is a significant proportion of women living with a breast cancer diagnosis in PEI, of which over 800 were diagnosed in the last 10 years.
- Most risk factors for breast cancer are associated with a woman's exposure to female hormones, especially to estrogen.
- Family history, genetics, ionizing radiation, alcohol consumption, and being overweight also play an important role in increasing the risk of breast cancer.
- The PEI Breast Cancer Screening Program is an important part of decreasing the mortality rates in women by diagnosing cancer early. Health PEI invites women 40 to 75 years of age to call the Program to make a screening appointment.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Information and navigation booklet released in 2016 called *One Step at a Time: A Pathway Through Breast Cancer* to further support Islanders and their families on their breast cancer journey is available at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/new-tool-will-support-islanders-diagnosed-breast-cancer>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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