

Each year in the United States, more than 22,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 14,000 women die of the disease. The American Cancer Society estimates that 22,240 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed in the United States during 2013.¹ Approximately 14,030 deaths are expected to be caused by ovarian cancer in the United States in 2013.

According to the data, mortality rates for ovarian cancer have not improved markedly in 40 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, 2009 in the United States approximately 182,758 women were alive who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.²

Ovarian Cancer Incidence and Death Count in the United States (age-adjusted)³		
Year	Incidence	Death Count
2009	20,460	14,436
2008	21,613	14,362
2007	21,498	14,621
2006	21,526	14,857
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 three percent of cancers in women.⁴ While the 10th most common cancer among women, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death among women.

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 72.⁵
- A woman’s lifetime risk of dying from invasive ovarian cancer is 1 in 95.

AGE

Ovarian cancer primarily develops in women over age 45. From 2003 to 2009, the median age at diagnosis was 63.

Approximate Age at Diagnosis 2005 - 2009⁷	
Age	Percent Diagnosed
Under 20	1.3%
Between 20 and 34	3.6%
Between 35 and 44	7.4%
Between 45 and 54	18.6%
Between 55 and 64	23.4%
Between 65 and 74	20.1%
Between 75 and 84	17.6%
85 and older	8.1%

From 2002 to 2009, 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 10-year relative survival rate for ovarian cancer patients is 34 percent.⁶
- The relative five-year survival rate is 44 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.
- Only 15 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early.⁷



Survival Rate and Diagnosis for Varied Stages (2002-2008) ⁸		
Stage at Diagnosis	Five-year Relative Survival Rate	Percentage of Total Women Diagnosed
Localized (cancer is limited to organ from which it originated)	91.5%	15%
Regional (cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes or organs and tissue)	71.9%	17%
Distant (cancer has spread to distant organs or lymph nodes)	26.9%	61%
Unstaged (not enough information to identify a stage)	22%	7%

Comparison of cancer survival rates:

- Women diagnosed with breast cancer in 1977 experienced a five-year survival rate of 75 percent; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 90 percent.
- Women diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1975-77 experienced a five-year survival rate of 69 percent; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 69 percent.
- Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1975-77 experienced a five-year survival rate of 36 percent; today, the American Cancer Society estimates the rate to be 43 percent.⁹

In the United States, doctors must report any diagnosis of cancer to a state registry. 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, these 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. 2009 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 2013.⁹

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 apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs

Sources:

Footnote 1 (and 4, 6, 9): American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2013. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2013.
Footnote 2 (and 5, 7, 8): Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, Neyman N, Aminou R, Altekruse SF, Kosary CL, Ruhl J, Tatalovich Z, Cho H, Mariotto A, Eisner MP, Lewis DR, Chen HS, Feuer EJ, Cronin KA (eds). SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009 (Vintage 2009 Populations), National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2009_pops09/, based on November 2011 SEER data submission, posted to the SEER web site, 2012.
Footnote 3: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. United States Cancer Statistics: 1999-2009 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; 2013. Available at: www.cdc.gov/uscs.

