

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer for women, after skin cancer. Men can also get breast cancer, although such cases are rare.

In the United States, at least 200,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year.

Routine screenings can help health care providers find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it has spread from inside breast tissue to other parts of the body.

In addition to preventive services such as mammograms, people with extremely dense breast tissue may also want to talk to their doctor about additional tests, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).^{*} A diagnosis of breast cancer can be confirmed with imaging of breast tissue, lab tests, and a biopsy in which tiny pieces of tissue are removed and examined under a microscope.



World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry studies show that breast cancer is more frequent in people exposed to the 9/11 disaster, when compared with the general population.[†] Breast cancer treatment may be covered by the WTC Health Program if a person is eligible and certified. To learn more about breast cancer and its risk factors, as well as how to reduce your risk and where to get screened, visit nyc.gov/health and search for breast cancer.

Breast cancer is one of 52 health conditions covered by participating in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WTC Health Program. The program provides medical monitoring and treatment for responders of the WTC disaster and related sites in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, PA. It also serves survivors who were in the New York City disaster area. To find out if you are eligible for assistance, apply at cdc.gov/wtc.

If you are experiencing an emotional crisis at any time, call NYC Well at **888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355)** or visit nyc.gov/nycwell. NYC Well is available 24/7, and in multiple languages.

This health material is provided by the NYC Health Department WTC Health Registry. If you have questions about the Registry, email wtdhr@health.nyc.gov.

^{*}Bakker MF, de Lange SV, Pijnappel RM, et al. Supplemental MRI screening for women with extremely dense breast tissue. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2019;381(22):2091-2102. [doi/10.1056/NEJMoa1903986](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1903986).

[†]Li J, Brackbill, RM, Liao TS, et al. Ten-Year Cancer Incidence in Rescue/Recovery Workers and Civilians Exposed to the September 11, 2001, Terrorists Attacks on the World Trade Center. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. 2016;59(9):709-721. doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22638.