

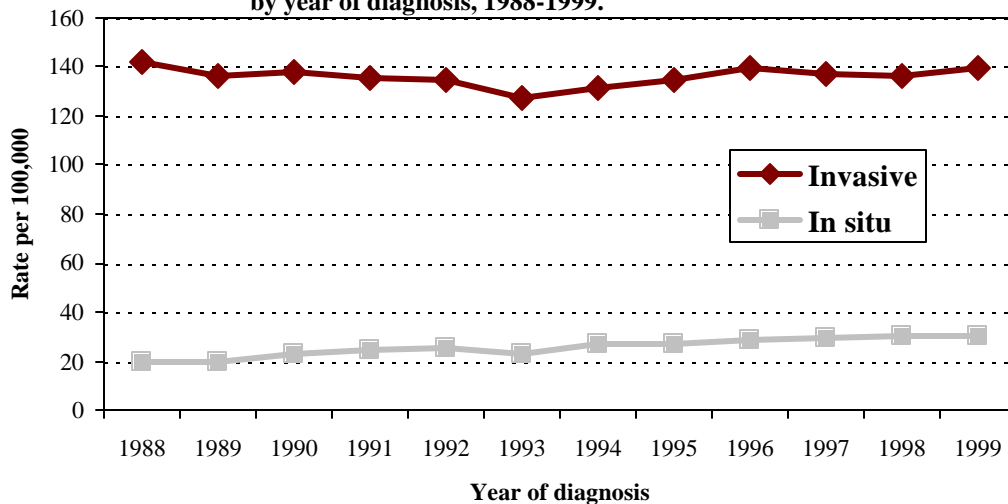


Breast Cancer in the San Francisco Bay Area 1988-1999

March 2002

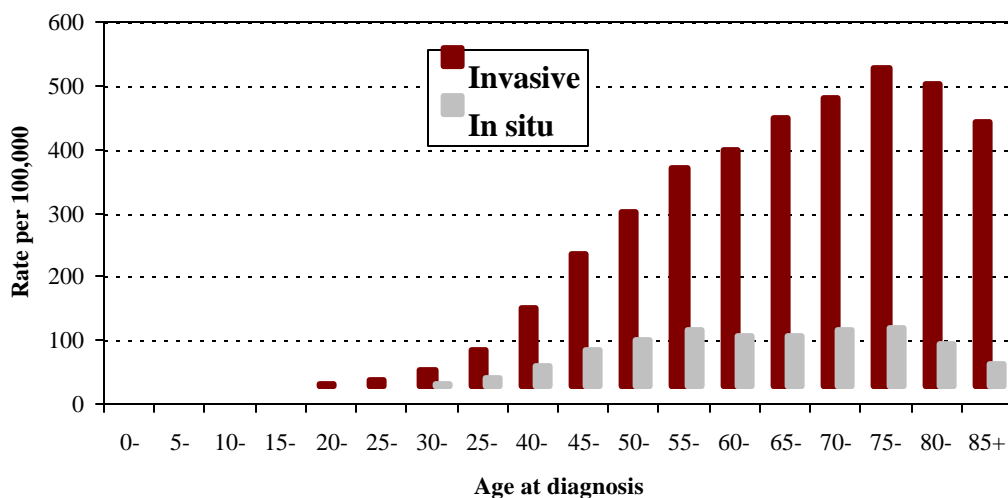
Breast cancer was the most common cancer in the San Francisco Bay Area with nearly 15,000 invasive and 3,000 *in situ* cases diagnosed among women between 1995 and 1999. During this period, age-adjusted incidence rates of invasive and *in situ* breast cancer were 137 and 29 cases per 100,000 females, respectively, similar to rates in the neighboring Santa Clara Region.

Figure 1. Age-adjusted incidence rates of invasive and *in situ* breast cancer, by year of diagnosis, 1988-1999.



Since 1988, rates of invasive breast cancer remained stable, but rates increased slightly for *in situ* cases, which may partly reflect increased use of early detection methods, such as mammography (Figure 1, above).

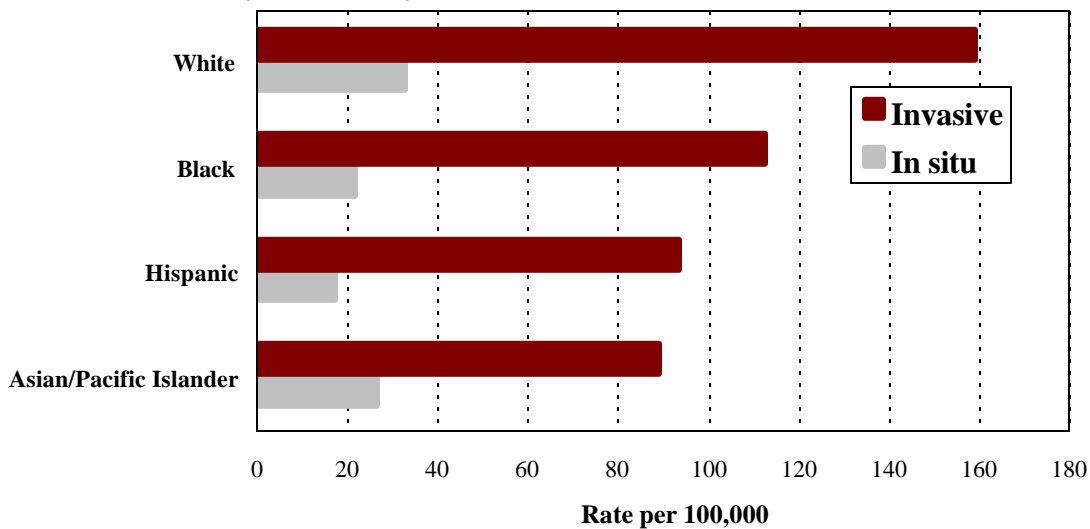
Figure 2. Average annual age-specific incidence rates of invasive and *in situ* breast cancer, by age at diagnosis, 1995-1999.



Incidence of breast cancer is low under the age of 25, although rates of invasive breast cancer increased sharply with age. Breast cancer *in situ* was most common in females between the ages of 50 and 80, which corresponds to the recommended ages for mammographic screening (Figure 2, above).

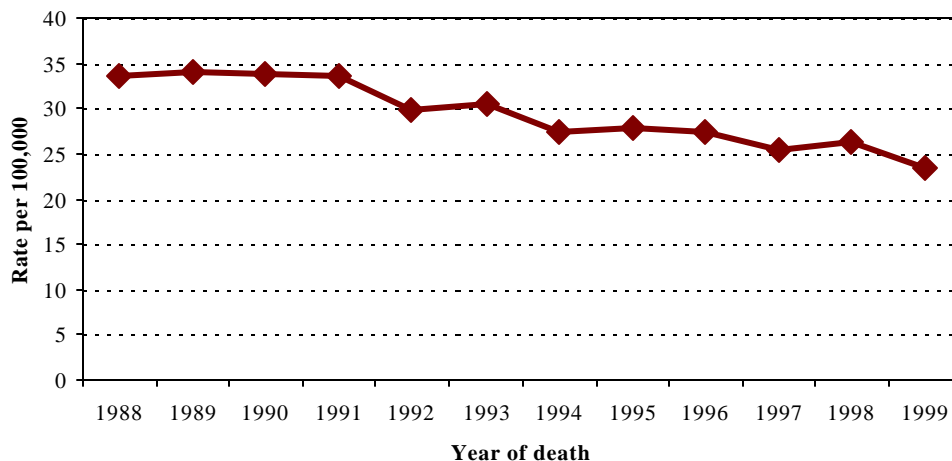


Figure 3. Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates of invasive and *in situ* breast cancer, by race/ethnicity, 1995-1999.



Rates of invasive and *in situ* breast cancer were highest in whites compared to females in other racial/ethnic groups (Figure 3, above).

Figure 4. Age-adjusted mortality rates for invasive breast cancer, by year of death, 1988-1999.



Between 1988 and 1999, mortality rates for invasive breast cancer declined substantially, likely due to improved treatment and screening (Figure 4, above).

Technical Notes: Because age distributions vary by population, a standard statistical procedure called “age-adjustment” was used so that we can examine differences in cancer incidence and mortality rates due to factors other than age. Rates are age-adjusted (using the Year 2000 population standard) unless noted to be age-specific. Race/ethnicity was categorized as four mutually-exclusive racial/ethnic groups: non-Hispanic whites (whites), non-Hispanic blacks (blacks), Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Asians/Pacific Islanders (Asians/Pacific Islanders).

About the data: Cancer data have been collected in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties since 1973, and in Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties since 1988, forming two parts (Regions 1 and 8) of the California Cancer Registry. These counties, referred to as the Greater Bay Area are also part of the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry program.

Founded in 1974, the mission of the **Northern California Cancer Center** is to reduce the burden of cancer through surveillance, epidemiology, prevention research and education. Essential to this mission is collaboration with partners in cancer research, education and the community.