

BREAST CANCER FACT SHEET

What is breast cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. When these abnormal cells grow in the breast, it is called breast cancer. Breast cancer can spread to other parts of the body if it is not found and treated early. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women. Men can also get breast cancer but it is not common.

What increases your chance of getting breast cancer?

- All women are at risk for breast cancer.
- Your risk increases as you get older. African American women are more likely to get breast cancer at earlier ages.
- Having a mother, aunt or sister with breast cancer or ovarian cancer increases your chance of getting breast cancer.
- Not having any children or having your first child in your 30s or 40s increases your chance of getting breast cancer.
- Hormone replacement therapy drugs after menopause may increase your chance of getting breast cancer.
- Having had cancer in one breast increases the chance of getting cancer in the other breast.

Is there a test for breast cancer?

- A mammogram, or an x-ray of the breast, is used to look for breast cancer.
- A doctor or nurse can examine your breasts to feel for any lumps.
- You should also examine your breasts every month to check for any lumps or changes.

Who should get a tested for breast cancer?

- All women over age 40 should have a mammogram every one to two years
- If you have symptoms or changes in your breast, or if breast cancer runs in your family, talk to your doctor about how often you should have a mammogram.

Where to get more information

Ask your doctor or any health care professional, or call the following:

Project Screen, Miami-Dade County Health Department	305-470-5634
Planned Parenthood	305-285-5535
YWCA of Greater Miami	305-377-9922
Haitian American Association Against Cancer	305-572-1825
Jessie Trice Center for Community Health	305-805-1700
Liberty City Health Services (Jackson Health System)	305-835-2200

Free telephone and online information:

American Cancer Society www.cancer.org	800-227-2345
Cancer Information Service www.cancer.gov	800-4-CANCER
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center www.sylvester.org	305-243-1000



IN PURSUIT OF YOUR CURE.™