



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Cancer-related mortality is the second leading cause of death for women in California.¹ In 2000, breast cancer and reproductive cancers were the third and fourth most frequent causes of death following cancers of the lung and digestive systems.²

In 2004, the Office of Women's Health sponsored questions in the annual California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) asking respondents whether they were ever told by a doctor that they had breast cancer or cancer of the reproductive system.

Six percent of 4,282 respondents reported a diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancers in their lifetime. Self-reported diagnosis of past breast/reproductive cancers varied significantly by race/ethnicity, age group, activity limitation status, and smoking status.³

- Overall, higher proportions of breast/reproductive cancer were reported by respondents older than 55 (see graph).

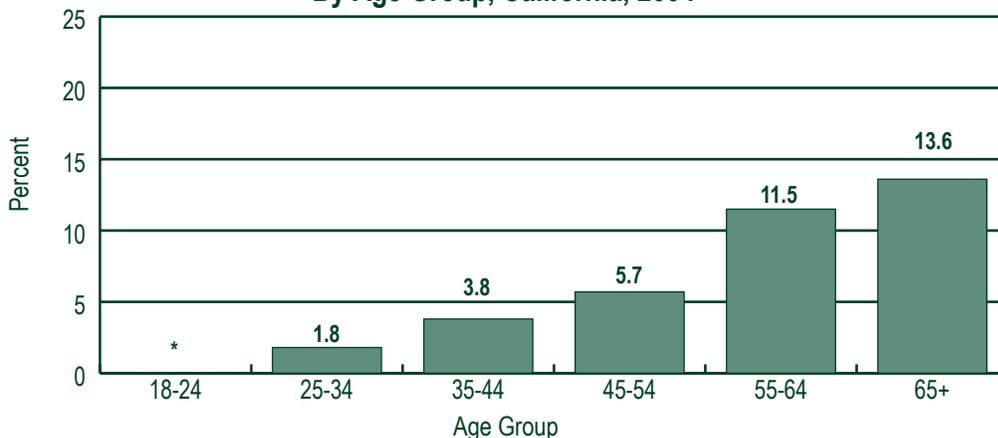
- A higher proportion of White respondents reported a past diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancer (7.3 percent), compared with Black/African American (6.8 percent), Asian/Other (5.4 percent), and Hispanic women (2.9 percent).
- Past diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancer was more commonly reported by smokers (8.3 percent) than by never smokers (5.0 percent).
- About 32.0 percent of respondents with past diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancer also reported having physical, mental, or other emotional problems compared with 19.0 percent of respondents who did not report a past diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancer.

Breast/Reproductive Cancer Diagnosis Among California Women, 2004

California Department of Health Services
Office of Women's Health

Public Health Message:
Six percent of the respondents reported a lifetime diagnosis of breast/reproductive cancers. Report of breast/reproductive cancer diagnosis differed by respondent age, race/ethnicity, smoking status, and activity limitation status. This information could help target outreach to groups that are at risk for breast/reproductive cancers. Women who were diagnosed with breast/reproductive cancers may need additional support even after diagnosis and treatment.

Proportion of Women Reporting That They Were Ever Told by a Doctor That They Had Cancer of The Breast or Reproductive System, By Age Group, California, 2004



* Sample size too small - finding may be unreliable
Source: California Women's Health Survey

**Breast/Reproductive
Cancer Diagnosis
Among California
Women, 2004**

- 1 <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/tables/datafiles/vsofca/0510.pdf>.
- 2 <http://www.ccrca.org/PDF/Min2003.pdf>.
- 3 $p < 0.05$.

California Department of
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Office of Women's Health

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