



# Office on Women's Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## FACTS & FIGURES...

### WOMEN'S HEALTH STATISTICS ACROSS THE NATION

A staggering amount of statistics pertaining to women's health have been released by top Federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the American Cancer Society, among others.

### WOMEN AND...

#### CANCER

Of the estimated 272,810 cancer related deaths in 2004<sup>i</sup>:

- 25% will be breast cancer
- 10% will be colon & rectum
- 6% will be ovarian
- 3% will be uterine

African-American women have the highest incidence of cancer related death among all ethnic groups of women.<sup>ii</sup>

#### Breast Cancer

An estimated 215,990 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to occur among women in the US during 2004.<sup>iii</sup>

It is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in women.<sup>iv</sup>

In 2004, it is estimated there will be 40,110 cases of breast cancer in women.<sup>v</sup>

#### Colon and Rectum Cancer

Excluding skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the United States.<sup>vi</sup>

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 106,370 new cases of colon cancer, 55,970 and 17,350 new cases of rectal cancer will be diagnosed in women in 2004.<sup>vii</sup>

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 74,700 women in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer this year.<sup>viii</sup>

Colorectal cancer is responsible for 11 percent of all cancer-related deaths; approximately 28,800 women in the United States die each year of colorectal cancer.<sup>ix</sup>

#### Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women.<sup>x</sup>

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 25,400 women will get ovarian cancer this year in the United States.<sup>xi</sup>

More than 14,300 women are expected to die from ovarian cancer each year in the United States alone.<sup>xii</sup>



## BREASTFEEDING

In 2000, the prevalence of breastfeeding in the hospital reached an all-time high of 68.4%.<sup>xiii</sup>

The American Academy of Pediatric Research states that among predominately middle-class populations in developed countries, there is strong evidence that human milk feeding decreases the incidence and/or severity of diarrhea, lower respiratory infection, otitis media, bacteremia, bacterial meningitis, botulism, urinary tract infection, and necrotizing enterocolitis.<sup>xiv</sup>

## OBESITY

Among women age 18 and older, the following are overweight or obese (BMI of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher):<sup>xv</sup>

56.6 percent of Hispanics.

27.1 percent of non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islanders

Among women age 20 and older, the following are overweight or obese (BMI of 25.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and higher):<sup>xvi</sup>

57.3 percent of White only.

77.3 percent of African Americans only.

71.9 percent of Mexicans.

## DIABETES

Of the estimated 11.1 million Americans with physician-diagnosed diabetes, about 6 million are female.

- 5.5 percent of women 20 and older have physician-diagnosed diabetes. Among them:
- 4.7 percent of non-Hispanic whites.
- 9.5 percent of non-Hispanic blacks.
- 11.4 percent of Mexican Americans.

\*Estimates are age-adjusted

Of the estimated 5.9 million Americans with undiagnosed diabetes, about 2.8 million are female.

In 2001 diabetes killed 38,531 females (54 percent of deaths from diabetes).

## HEART DISEASE

Since 1984, the number of cardiovascular disease deaths for females has exceeded those for males. The difference in deaths now is nearly 67,000 per year.<sup>xvii</sup>

Coronary heart disease rates in women after menopause are 2-3 times those of women the same age before menopause.<sup>xviii</sup>

64 percent of women who died suddenly of CHD had no previous symptoms.<sup>xix</sup>

As many as 20 percent of all deaths in hypertensive black women may be due to HBP.<sup>xx</sup>

## References

---

- <sup>i</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 10
- <sup>ii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 10
- <sup>iii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 9
- <sup>iv</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 9
- <sup>v</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 9
- <sup>vi</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 11
- <sup>vii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 11
- <sup>viii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 11
- <sup>ix</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2004, p. 11
- <sup>x</sup> Women's Cancer Network
- <sup>xi</sup> Women's Cancer Network
- <sup>xii</sup> Women's Cancer Network
- <sup>xiii</sup> DHHS Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding
- <sup>xiv</sup> American Academy of Pediatric Research
- <sup>xv</sup> National Health Interview Survey [1997-98], Centers for Disease Control /National Center for Health Statistics-Cardiovascular Health Study
- <sup>xvi</sup> National Health Interview Survey [1997-98], Centers for Disease Control /National Center for Health Statistics-Cardiovascular Health Study
- <sup>xvii</sup> FHS – Framingham Heart Study. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- <sup>xviii</sup> FHS – Framingham Heart Study. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- <sup>xix</sup> FHS – Framingham Heart Study. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- <sup>xx</sup> *JAMA – Journal of the American Medical Association* JNC V – Fifth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure JNC VI – Sixth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure