

Cancer in Utah

Female Breast

<i>Summary</i>	Utah 1996-2000	US 1996-99
Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates*	119.3	137.7
Rank among cancer incidence rates	1	1
Average annual number of new cases	965	197,820
Percent of all new cancer cases	33.2 %	31.8 %
Lifetime risk of this cancer (00-79 years)	1 in 9	1 in 8
Average annual age-adjusted mortality rates*	24.2	28.3
Rank among cancer mortality rates	1	2
Average annual of deaths	196	41,978
Percent of all cancer deaths	18.4 %	16.2 %
* Rates per 100,000 and standardized to the 2000 U.S. population		

Breast cancer is presently the most common type of malignancy diagnosed among women in Utah and in the United States. However, incidence rates for breast cancer among women in Utah are approximately 10-15 percent lower than comparable nationwide rates.

Genetic factors contribute to the risk of breast cancer. The relatively recent discovery of specific genes that predispose to breast cancer (e.g., BRCA1 and BRCA2) was an important step toward the understanding of breast and other cancers. Nonetheless, it is estimated that BRCA1 and BRCA2 are collectively responsible for less than ten percent of all cases of the disease.

Epidemiological studies have repeatedly shown that women of high socioeconomic status are generally at higher risk for breast cancer than other women. Large international differences in rates of breast cancer have been related to variations in diet, especially dietary fats, although a causal role for these substances has not been firmly established. Risk is higher in nulliparous than parous women and, among the latter, risk increases as the age at which a woman experiences her first term pregnancy increases. Early menarche is also associated with an increased risk of the disease. Utah has one of the highest fertility rates in the US; this high fertility rate may partially account for the relatively low risk of breast cancer in the state.

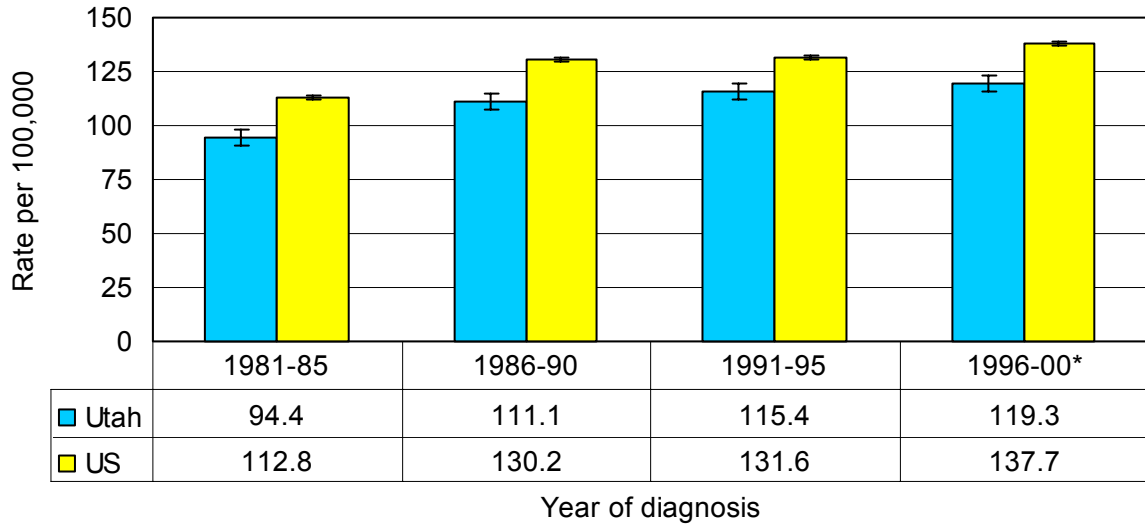
Radiation exposure is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer, although this is a rare cause of the disease. It should be noted that the current doses of radiation received during mammography are unlikely to appreciably increase the risk of breast cancer.

There are no practical means to prevent the development of breast cancer. However, routine screening for breast cancer has been shown to reduce mortality from the disease. Mammography is considered the best method for detecting breast cancer early. Unfortunately, Utah women are less likely than women nationwide to have had a mammogram. In 1999, for example, approximately 67 percent of women 40 years of age and older reported ever having had a mammogram, compared with 74 percent of women nationwide.

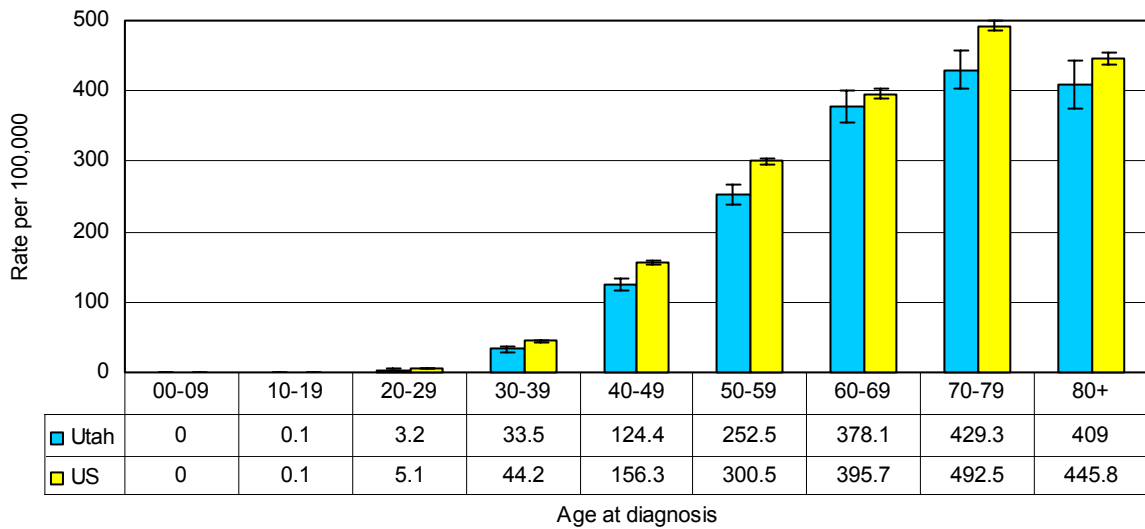
Cancer in Utah

Female Breast	Incidence
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Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates per 100,000 (US 2000 standard)
by 5-year time period, 1981-2000



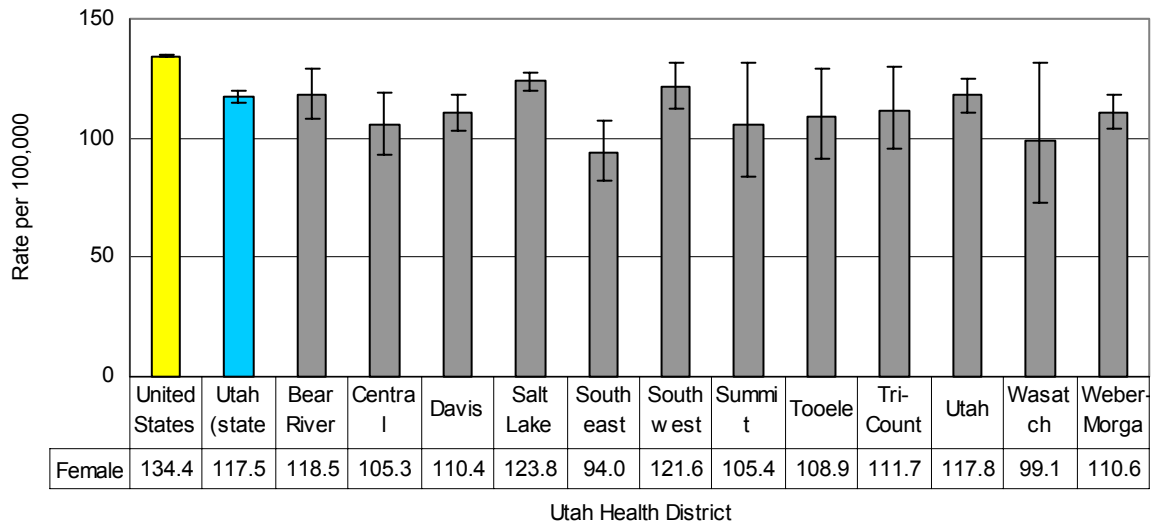
Average annual age-specific incidence rates per 100,000, 1996-2000



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Female Breast	Incidence
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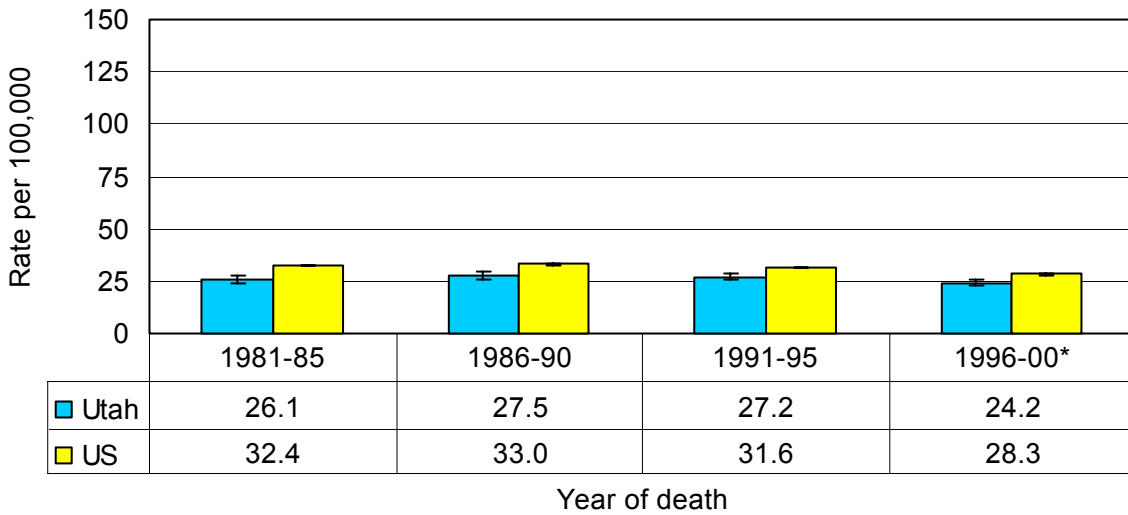
Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates per 100,000 (US 2000 standard) for twelve Utah Health Districts, for the time period 1991-2000, with rates from Utah (statewide) and the United States for comparison



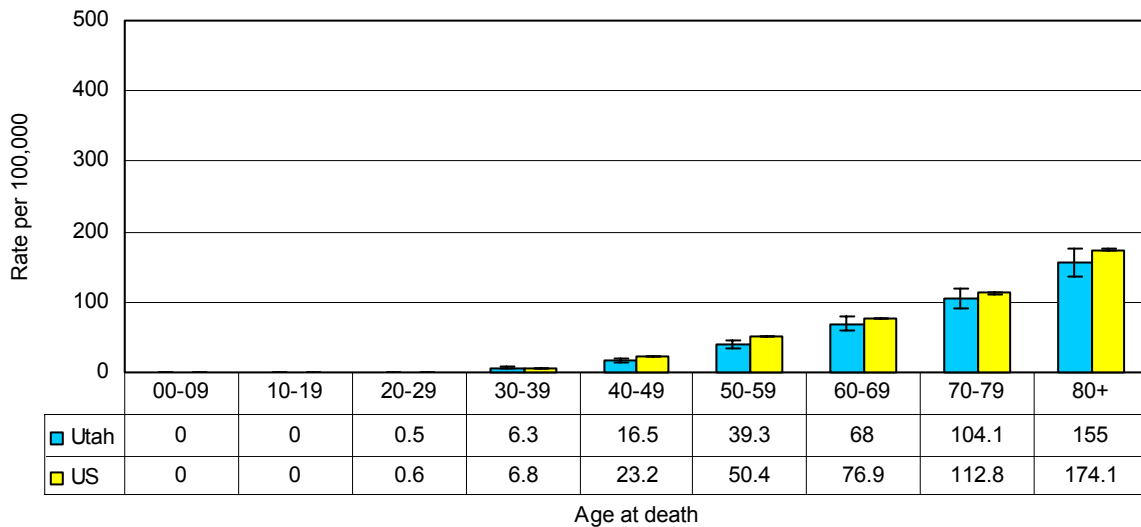
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Female Breast	Mortality
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Average annual age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 (US 2000 standard)
by 5-year time period, 1981-2000



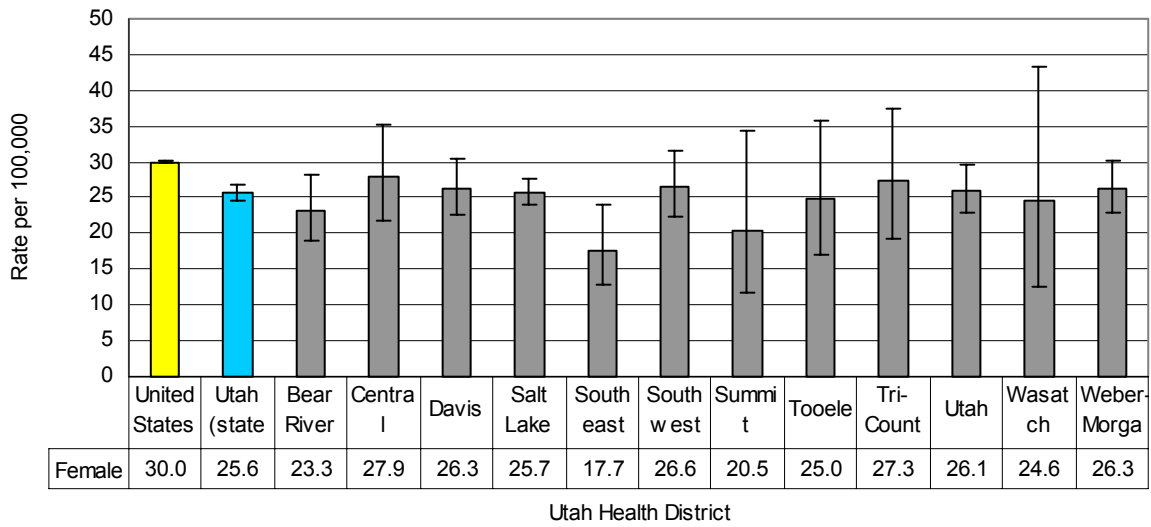
Average annual age-specific mortality rates per 100,000, 1996-2000



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Female Breast	Mortality
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Average annual age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 (US 2000 standard) for twelve Utah Health Districts, for the time period 1991-2000, with rates from Utah (statewide) and the United States for comparison

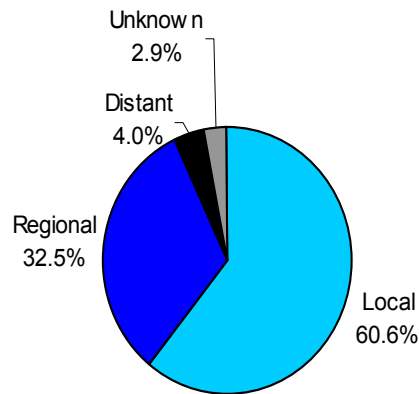


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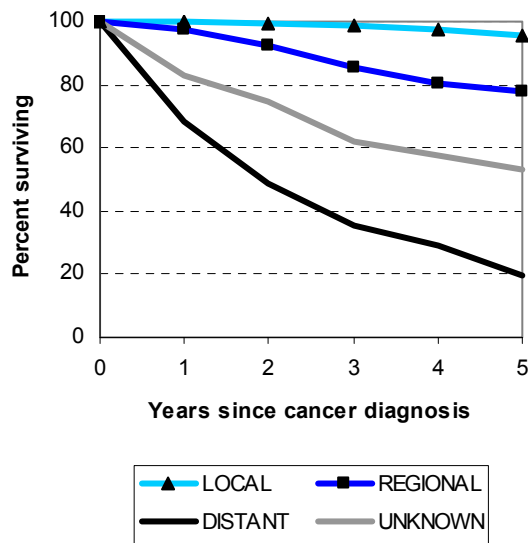
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Stage and Survival

Stage of disease at diagnosis:
Utah residents diagnosed 1996-2000



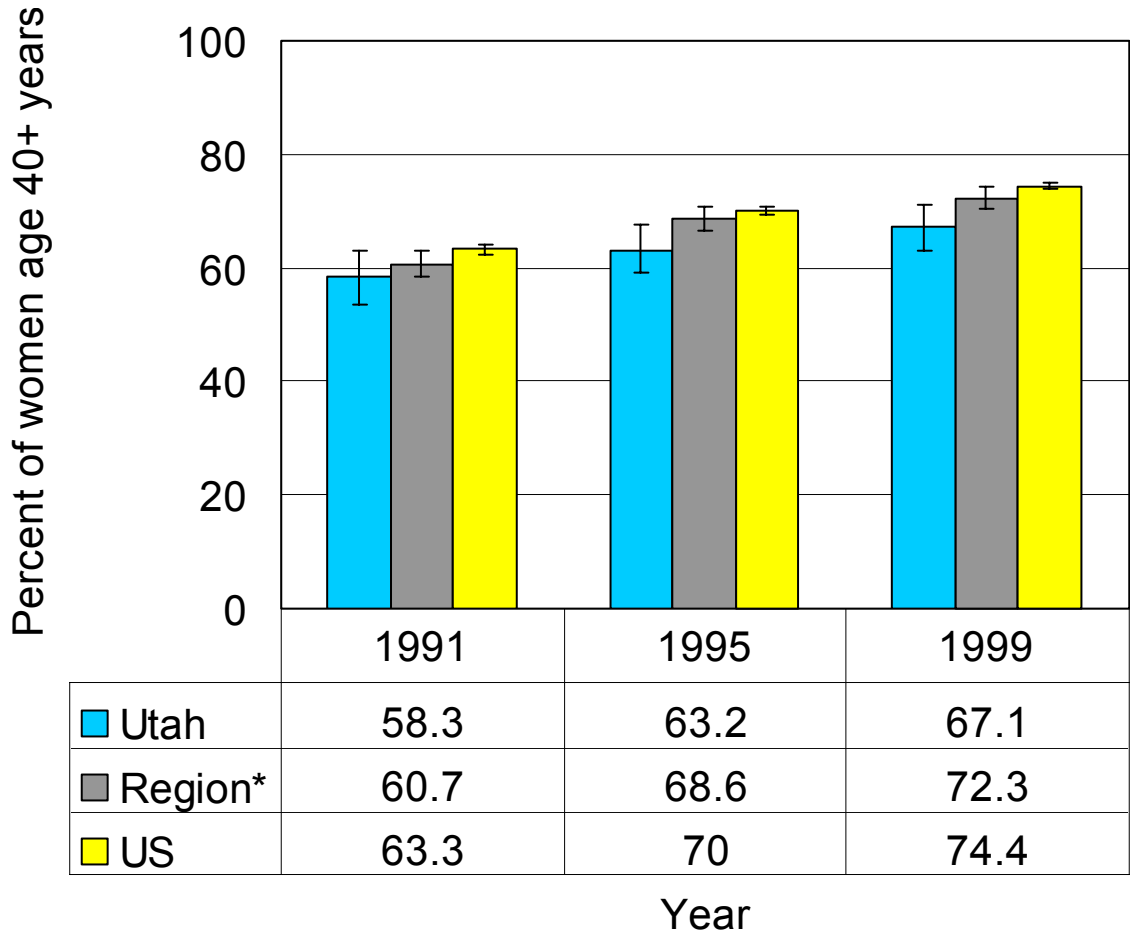
5-year relative survival by stage:
Utah residents diagnosed 1991-95



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Female Breast	<i>Screening</i>
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Percentage of Utah women, 40 years of age and older,
who reported having a mammogram in the past two years
(Surveys conducted in calendar years 1991, 1995, and 1999)



* Seven Western States including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

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