



Fact Sheet: Breast Cancer

Prepared by the Ontario Breast Screening Program,
Cancer Care Ontario.

- Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer death in women.
- The average Ontario woman has a 1 in 9 chance of developing breast cancer in her lifetime.
- It is estimated that in 2002, 7800 Ontario women developed breast cancer, and 2000 died from it.
- A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases with age.
- Because the population is aging, the number of women who die from breast cancer will increase.
- There is no way yet known to prevent breast cancer.
- Mammography (x-ray of the breasts) can detect small cancers before they can be felt.
- Women over 50 years should have a mammogram every two years.
- Early detection of breast cancer can save many lives.
- Small breast cancers have the highest chance of being cured.
- The Ontario Breast Screening Program offers to women 50 years and over:
 - **mammography**
 - **physical examination of the breasts (at most sites)**
 - **information on breast self-examination**
 - **a reminder to return for screening.**

***General Information on breast cancer
and screening is available by calling:
1-800-668-9304***