

# Metastatic Breast Cancer: Facts and Figures

- Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC), also called stage IV or advanced breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other organs in the body (most often the bones, lungs, liver or brain). Both women and men can be diagnosed with MBC.
- It is estimated that 20-30% of all breast cancer cases will become metastatic.
- The number of people living with metastatic breast cancer in the US is estimated to be over 155,000, but no statistics are currently collected.
- Median survival after a metastatic breast cancer diagnosis is three years. Median survival in 1970 was 18 months.
- Approximately 6-10% of new breast cancer cases are initially Stage IV or metastatic. This is sometimes called "de novo" metastatic disease, meaning from the beginning.
- Despite the decrease in cancer mortality rates since 1990, the actual number of Americans losing their battle with the disease has hovered around 40,000 each year since at least the year 2000.
- In October 2013, 15 breast cancer organizations, including Susan G. Komen, came together to form the [Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance](#) (MBCA). Working in partnership, the MBCA aims to increase awareness of metastatic disease and the unique issues faced by people living with MBC, as well as work to advance research and policy efforts for MBC that have the potential to extend life, enhance quality of life and ultimately find a cure.
- Komen is dedicated to understanding why metastasis occurs and how to stop it. We have invested over \$91 million since 2006 in nearly 200 grants focused on metastasis. Komen-funded researchers are:
  - Identifying the genes and processes that cause breast cancer cells to metastasize,
  - Developing and testing new therapies to both prevent and treat metastatic breast cancer, and
  - Discovering new methods for predicting or detecting metastasis using urine or blood tests or body scans.
- In Idaho, Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk at Boise State University has received \$600,000 from Susan G. Komen for her research on metastatic breast cancer.
- More funds need to be directed to Metastatic Breast Cancer research. MBC-focused research made up only 7% of the \$15-billion invested in breast cancer research from 2000 to 2013 by the major governmental and nonprofit funders from North America and the United Kingdom.