

# ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



**OCTOBER 2023**

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## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing public awareness about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. The month brings awareness to screening, treatment, and research resources as well.

Every year in the United States, about 264,000 women get breast cancer and tragically, 42,000 women die from the disease annually. Early detection and treatment are the best ways to ensure that a person diagnosed with breast cancer is able to beat the disease.

Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women. Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. Mammograms are the best way to find

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***Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early. That's when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.***



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breast cancer early. That's when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Ask your doctor when you should get a mammogram to check for signs of breast cancer.

Men also get breast cancer, but it is not as common. About 1 out of every 100 breast cancers diagnosed in the United States is found in a man.

**Symptoms**

It is important for everyone to be aware of signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Though in early stages, some people have no symptoms at all. Symptoms can include:

- Change in the size or the shape of the breast
- Pain in any area of the breast tissue
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk (including blood)
- A new lump in the breast tissue or underarm

If you have any signs that worry you, see your doctor right away.

**Prevention**

There are also things that you can do to lower your risks of developing breast cancer. Some of those things include:

- Keep a healthy weight and exercise regularly.
- Do not drink alcohol, or drink alcohol in moderation.
- Breastfeed your children, if possible.
- If you are taking hormone replacement therapy or birth control pills, ask your doctor about the risks.

**REFERENCE:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcp/resources/features/breastcancerawareness>

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