

Public Outcomes Report Breast Cancer

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Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, except for skin cancer. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS) 1 out of every 8 women living in the US will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. The ACS estimates approximately 232,670 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2014. About 62,570 new cases of carcinoma in situ (CIS) will be diagnosed (CIS is non-invasive and is the earliest form of breast cancer) and it is estimated that approximately 40,000 women will die from breast cancer.

After increasing for more than two decades, female breast cancer incidence rates began decreasing in 2000, and then dropped by about seven percent from 2002 to 2003. This large decrease was thought to be due to the decline in the use of hormone therapy after menopause that occurred following the results of the Women's Health Initiative published in 2002*. This study linked the use of hormone therapy to an increased risk of breast cancer and heart disease. Incidence rates have been stable in recent years. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death, exceeded only by lung cancer. The percentage of deaths resulting from breast cancer is approximately three percent or 1 in 36.

The most common symptom of breast cancer is a new lump or mass in the breast. A mass or lump that has irregular borders is an indicator that breast cancer may be present. Most breast cancers are painless; however some breast cancers are soft, tender or even painful. Other indications of breast cancer include swelling, dimpling skin around the breast, discharge or nipple retraction. Sometimes breast cancer can spread to surrounding lymph nodes.

Treatment for breast cancer is dependent on several factors such as type, size and location of the tumor and whether or not the disease has spread to the lymph nodes. Surgery is often necessary with breast cancer. Conserving surgery (lumpectomy) or mastectomy are two common approaches to tumor removal. Treatment options for breast cancer following surgery include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hormone therapy and complimentary therapies.

Clinical trials are an option for some cancer patients who wish to explore newer state-of-the-art ways to treat breast cancer. Patients can talk to their healthcare provider to learn more about clinical trials and whether it is right for them.

*Study conducted by the Women's Health Initiative, an initiative created by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) to address major health issues causing morbidity and mortality in postmenopausal women. Chlebowski RT, Stefanick, ML, Anderson GA. "Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women after Hormone Therapy." JAMA. 2011 Feb 2;305(5):466-67.

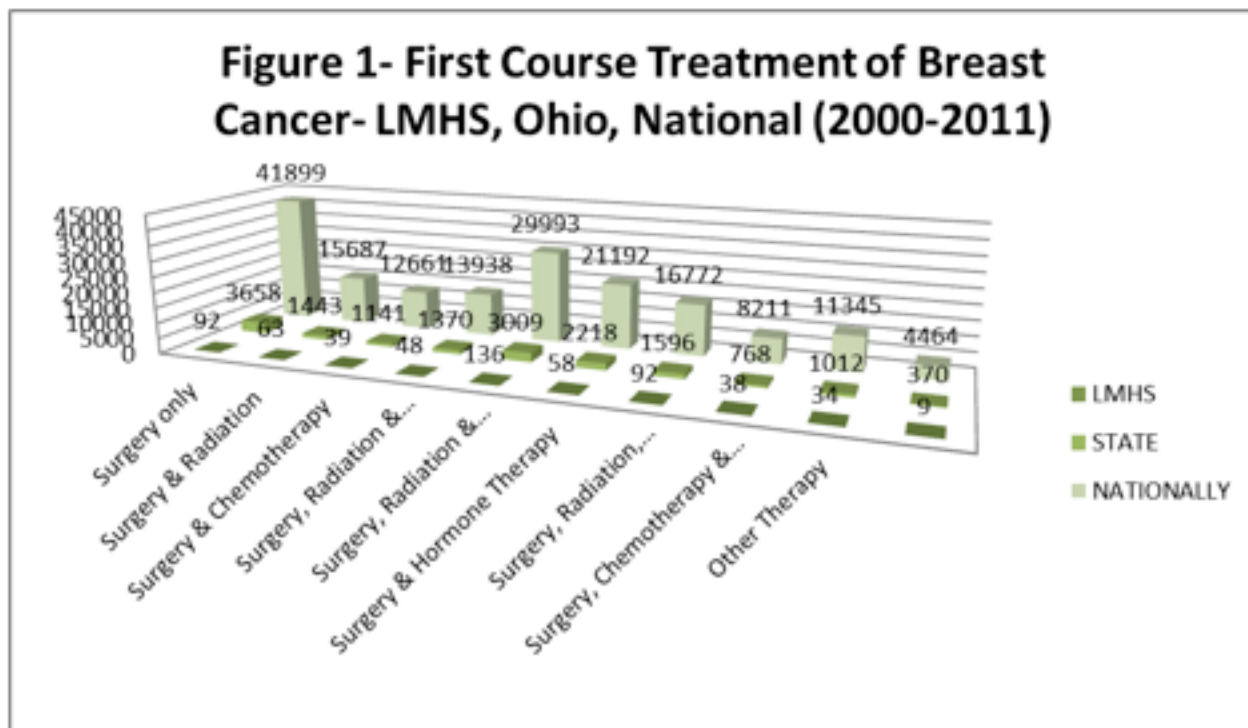


Figure 1: Comparing data from LMHS to data from Ohio and nationally, the data shows that LMHS’s incidence of surgery, radiation and hormone therapy seems to be the course of treatment across the board.

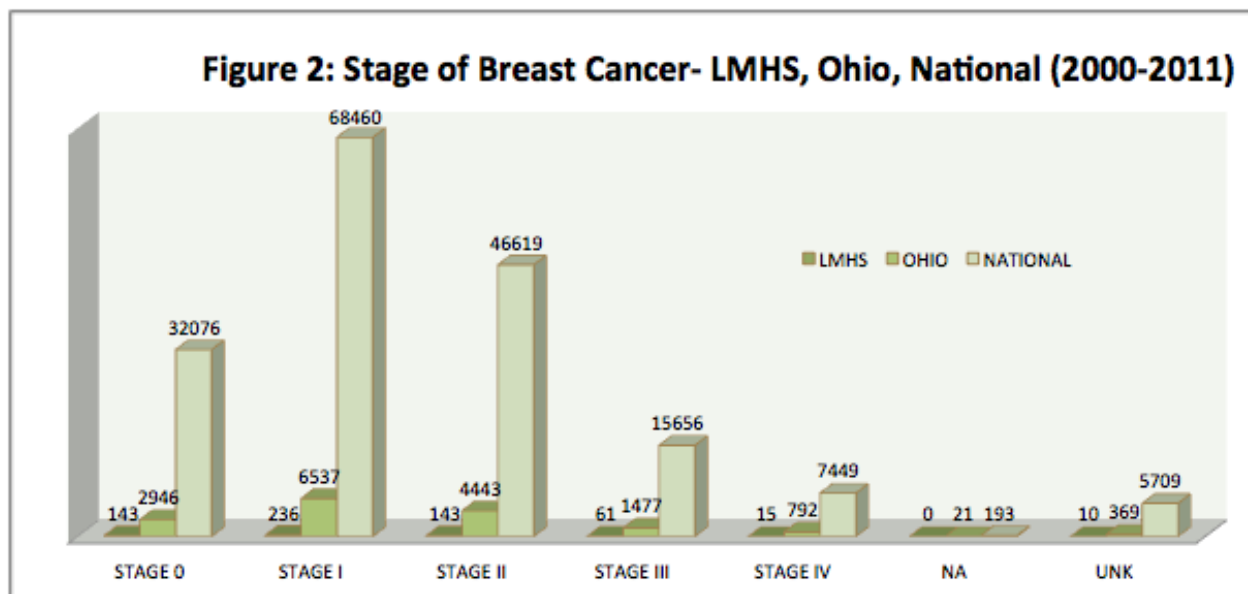


Figure 2: Stage I breast cancer appears to be the most prevalent among the diagnosed breast cancers when comparing data from LMHS, Ohio and nationally.

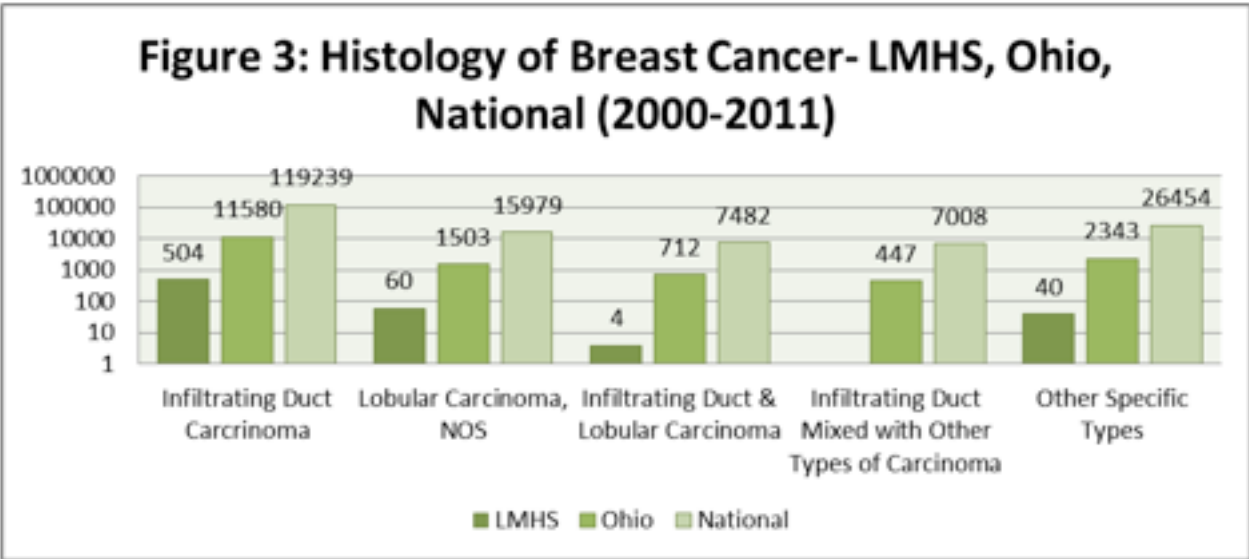


Figure 3: Comparing data from LMHS, Ohio and nationally, the most prevalent cancer type diagnosed is infiltrating ductal carcinoma, with other specific types being the second most prevalent.

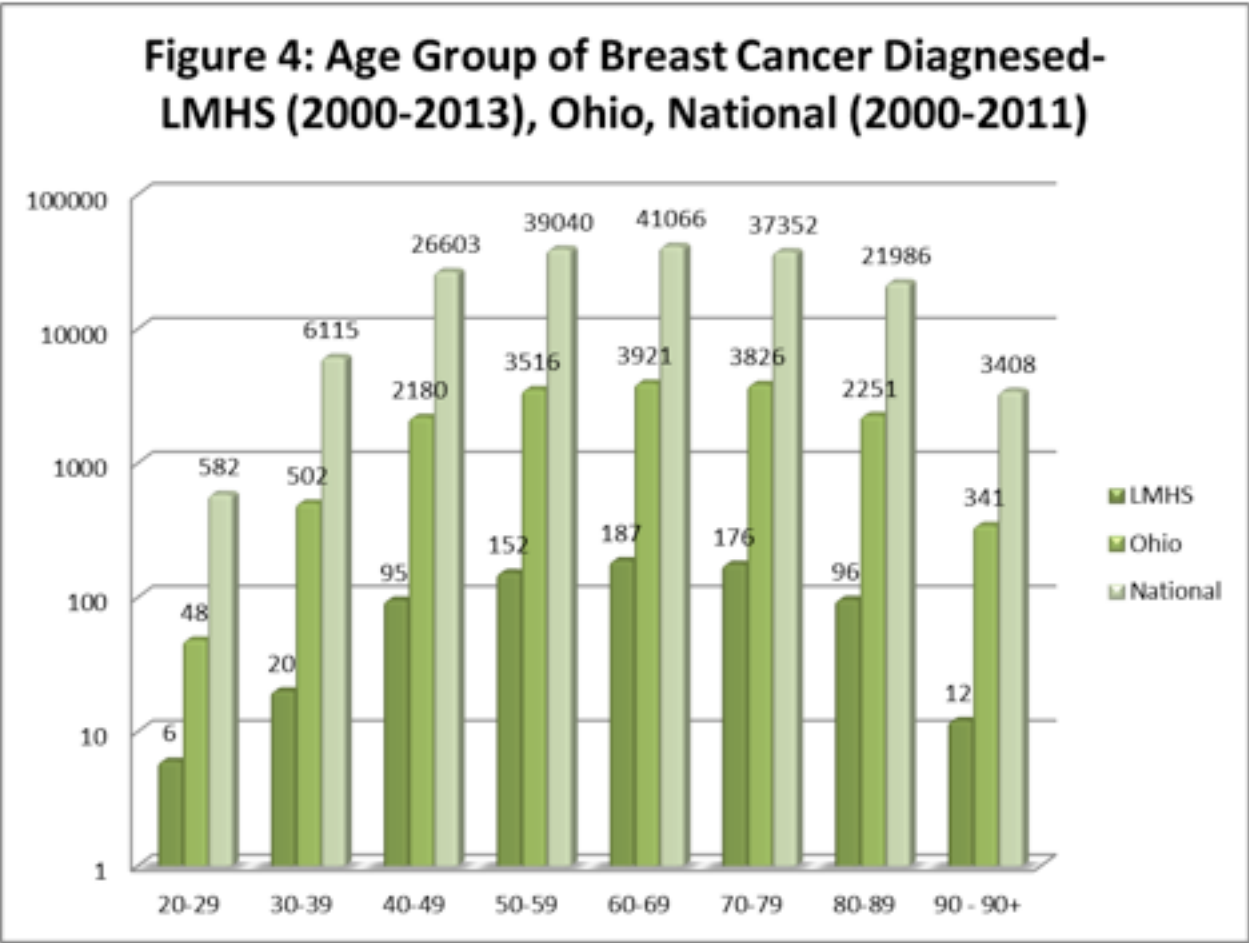


Figure 4: Comparing data from LMHS, Ohio and nationally the most frequently diagnosed age group is 60 - 69 with ages 50 - 59 being close behind.