

# BREAST CANCER IN THE AMERICAS

## WOMEN AFFECTED

Each year in the Americas

**MORE THAN  
491,000** 

women are diagnosed with breast cancer.

Approximately **106,391** women die from this disease.

**by 2040**

**+39%** increase in number of women diagnosed

**684,174  
CASES**

**162,044  
DEATHS**

(+39.1%)

(+52.3%)

## Latin America and the Caribbean

A greater proportion of breast cancer deaths occur in women under 65 years of age in Latin America and the Caribbean (50%) as compared to North America (37%).

## KEY MESSAGES



BREAST CANCER IS THE **MOST COMMON CANCER AND THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER DEATHS** AMONG WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS

**Earlier diagnosis** coupled with advances in treatment have led to **better outcomes** for women with breast cancer.

Breast cancer incidence rates in **Northern America** are **twice as high** as those in **Central America**. Yet, the mortality rates are similar, highlighting the differences in access to treatment.



COMPREHENSIVE BREAST CANCER **PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS** ARE ESSENTIAL TO **REDUCE THE BURDEN OF THE DISEASE**

**Health education** can improve awareness and understanding among women about the importance of **breast cancer screening and seeking care**.

While the causes of breast cancer remain largely unknown, factors that can increase breast cancer risk include: **family history, early age at menarche, late age at first childbirth, hormone use, obesity, and alcohol**.

**Early detection, accurate diagnosis, and timely treatment** are needed to control breast cancer.



**BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES** ARE ATTAINED WITH **EARLIER DIAGNOSIS**

**High-quality mammography screening, linked to timely treatment** have led to better outcomes for women with breast cancer.



## PALLIATIVE CARE CAN REDUCE PAIN AND SUFFERING FOR WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families, and may also positively influence the course of illness.

It can meet the psychosocial, spiritual and supportive care needs of women with breast cancer.

PAHO/WHO promotes a comprehensive approach to breast cancer prevention and control, including education, screening and early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care.

Data source: GLOBOCAN, 2018

# KEY ACTIONS BY PAHO

PAHO is working with its Member States to mount and sustain comprehensive cancer control programs that include breast cancer.



**Advocacy and communication** to raise the priority of breast cancer on the public health agenda, as well as to improve awareness and understanding of the burden of this disease among women, their families, and communities.



**Technical assistance** to improve the quality and access to mammography services, and training of mammography personnel.



**Promotion of evidence-based guidelines**, stratified according to available resources, for screening, diagnosis, and treatment.



**Improving quality and access to radiotherapy services** and strengthening capacity for cancer treatment in the region.



**Integrating breast health awareness within primary care services.**