University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

ADULT

HEALTH BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2022

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



LEXINGTON, KY 40546

ctober as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to educating everyone about breast cancer and the importance of early detection and timely, high-quality care. Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women.

Fast facts about breast cancer

- 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime — that's one person every 12 minutes in the U.S.
- The two greatest risk factors of breast cancer are **being female** and **getting older**.
- Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women.
- Men also get breast cancer, but it is not very common. About 1 out of every 100 breast cancers diagnosed in the United States is found in a man.

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Symptoms of breast cancer

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

If you have any of these signs, see your doctor right away. Keep in mind that some people diagnosed with breast cancer have no symptoms.

Know your risks

Knowing your family history is vital. Talk to your family and share that family health history information with your doctor to see how that history influences your risk of breast cancer. You and your doctor can create a personalized plan to monitor for signs of the disease.

Get screened

For those at average risk, doctors recommend getting a mammogram every year starting at

age 40. If there are any signs of breast cancer, finding it early and treating it early can save your life.

Make healthy lifestyle choices

Living a healthy lifestyle may lower your risk of breast cancer. Maintain a healthy weight, limit alcohol intake, and exercise regularly.

Know your normal

It is important to know what is normal for you and your body. If you notice something that does not look or feel right, notify your health-care provider. Early detection and effective treatment are critical to reducing breast cancer deaths.

REFERENCES:

- https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/breastcancerawareness
- https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/risk-and-prevention.html

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Written by:

Dr. Natalie Jones, MPH, DrPH
Edited by: Alyssa Simms
Designed by: Rusty Manseau
Stock images:
123RF.com