

DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST IMAGING

January 2026

Breast cancer has the highest treatment cost of any cancer - making early detection critical in reducing long term health care costs. Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental imaging required to determine the need for a biopsy or rule out breast cancer.

IMPORTANCE OF DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGING

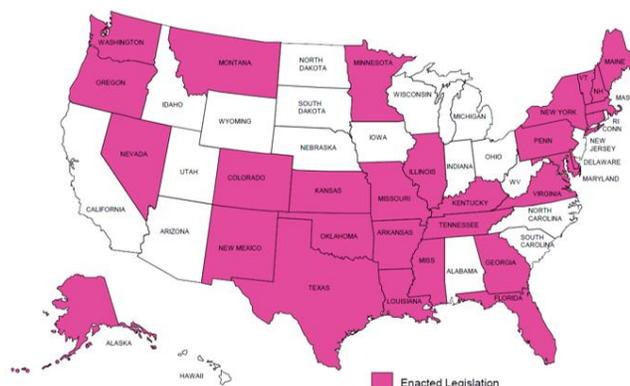
- More than 1,160 individuals are estimated to be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 120 will die from the disease in Rhode Island in 2026 alone.
- Despite significant advancements in breast cancer screening and diagnosis over the past 30 years, disparities persist across some demographics.
- Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic and supplemental imaging are less likely to receive their medically recommended imaging. This can mean that the individual will delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body, making it more deadly and much costlier to treat.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF DELAYED OR MISSED CARE

- A recent KFF study found that 6 in 10 adults say they are either very or somewhat worried about being able to afford the cost of health care services, with 23% saying their health got worse due to skipped or postponed care.
- According to a study published in Radiology, 1 in 5 patients said they would not go in for recommended follow-up imaging if they had to pay a deductible, with 18% of patients sharing they would skip the initial screening mammogram if they knew they would have to pay a deductible for the follow-up testing.
- Delayed or missed breast imaging can result in later stage diagnosis leading to significantly higher health care costs, extended employment absences, higher disability claims, increased staffing costs and greater retention risks, ultimately straining the workforce.
- By eliminating burdensome financial barriers to comprehensive preventive care, we can drive earlier detection, improve outcomes, reduce the overall costs to the health care system and create a healthier more productive workforce.

**States Where Patients
Have Access to Needed
Breast Imaging Without
Out-of-Pocket Costs**

**Rhode Island Should be
Next, Support
SB2032/HB7276**



Questions? Contact Angelica Katz at Akatz@Komen.org

Just the Facts: Out of Pocket Costs and Breast Cancer Survival

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the U.S. In 2025, an estimated 316,950 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 42,680 are expected to die from the disease.ⁱ When detected early and before it has spread, the 5-year survival rate is 99%, but drops to 32% for late stage diagnosis.ⁱⁱ Improved survival is due in part to advancement in treatment options and access to regular screening. The American Cancer Society recommends biennial screening mammograms beginning at age 40 years, to detect breast cancer early.ⁱⁱⁱ

ACS CAN Position

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports legislation and policies that ensure breast cancer screening services — including diagnostic and follow-up testing — are covered without cost-sharing. These policies are essential to increasing access and expanding coverage of breast cancer screening.

1 in 8 women (13%) in the US will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer



16% of invasive breast cancers will be in women under 50 years of age^{iv}

Breast Cancer Screening

Breast cancer screening is a continuum. It begins with a screening mammogram, which is often free for most insured women. However, if a woman receives an abnormal result or requires additional imaging due to personal risk factors, follow-up testing such as an ultrasound, MRI, and/or biopsy, may be necessary. These follow-up services are not always fully covered by insurance and often result in out-of-pocket cost sharing for patients.

Breast Cancer Screening Continuum



Women aged 40 - 74 are recommended to receive a screening mammogram



An abnormal result or increased personal risk factors may require follow-up tests



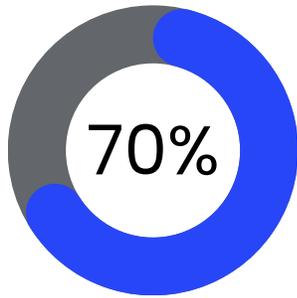
Follow-up testing may include mammograms, ultrasounds and/or MRIs



A biopsy may be necessary if cancer is suspected

A January 2025 economic analysis by ACS CAN and FTI Consulting examined the impact of cost sharing on follow-up care after a screening mammogram. The study found that many patients face substantial out-of-pocket cost sharing for additional testing and imaging following an abnormal result. These financial barriers often lead to delays in follow-up care and future mammograms, contributing to later-stage cancer diagnoses and increased overall healthcare costs.

Impact of Cost Sharing on Breast Cancer Follow-Up Screening*^v



More than 70% of women in the U.S. face cost barriers to accessing follow-up breast cancer diagnosis.

Eliminating cost sharing will lead to an estimated

7,568
fewer patients

diagnosed with **later stage** (regional or distant) **breast cancer**.

\$2.2 billion
per year

in U.S. health care costs saved by eliminating patient's cost burden for follow-up testing after abnormal mammogram.

Delays during breast cancer screening can be **deadly and costly**.

The burden of out-of-pocket costs is leading millions of women to **delay necessary follow-up** tests due to affordability. Cost sharing is also having an impact on future screening, with thousands of women **skipping future mammograms** due to fear of the subsequent costs of follow-up testing.

1.1 Million

women will **delay** necessary follow-up tests **due to the out-of-pocket costs**.

378,000+

women will likely **skip** future mammograms due to **fear of out-of-pocket costs**.

- i. American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2025*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2025.
- ii. American Cancer Society. *Breast Cancer Facts & Figures 2024-2025*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024 .
- iii. American Cancer Society. American Cancer Society Recommendations for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/screening-tests-and-early-detection/american-cancer-society-recommendations-for-the-early-detection-of-breast-cancer.html>, May 2025.
- iv. American Cancer Society. *Breast Cancer Facts & Figures 2024-2025*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024 .
- v. American Cancer Society. *Out of Pocket Costs for Follow-Up Tests After Abnormal Screening Mammogram and Their Impact on Breast Cancer Survival*, January 2025.

Local stage: \$231,363

Regional Stage: \$303,172

Late Stage: \$341, 521

