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The Cancer Control Challenge:
Better Understanding It to Better Face It

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY PATTERNS OF BREAST CANCER IN BRAZIL: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS BETWEEN 2020 AND 2024

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Introduction: Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the female population worldwide. Its incidence and associated mortality have increased in recent decades due to its association with risk factors, better diagnostic methods and increased case records. Understanding recent patterns of morbidity and mortality is fundamental to evaluating the effectiveness of public health interventions and identifying gaps. **Objectives:** To assess the epidemiological and regional profile of breast cancer distribution in Brazil between 2020 and 2024. **Methods:** This is a descriptive observational study, with a quantitative approach, carried out through the collection of secondary data obtained from the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS), addressing the epidemiological profile of breast cancer morbidity and mortality in Brazil by region in the period between 2020 and 2024. The data was collected in April 2025 and arranged and analyzed in Microsoft Excel 2016 spreadsheets and analyzed using simple descriptive statistics, evaluating the variables of gender, ethnicity, age group, deaths and mortality rate. **Results:** Between 2020 and 2024, approximately 394,756 cases were recorded, and it was observed that the southeast region had the highest number in all the years evaluated, with a total of 190,914 (48.36%) cases. The North had the lowest number of cases, with 14,052 (3.55%). There was a progression in the number of absolute cases identified over the assessed period of +36%. During this period, the ethnic groups most affected were white with 173,060 (43.83%) and brown with 166,092 (42.07%) of the cases. It should be noted that the predominance of cases was between the ages of 30-69, with 289,073 (73.22%) cases. The average hospitalization time was 3 days, with the northern region having the highest average of 4.2 days and the lowest average in the southern region with 2.5%. The number of deaths from breast cancer in the same period was 30,964, with an overall death rate of 7.84%, with the highest relative mortality rate in the North (9.86%) and the lowest in the Northeast (6.93%), with a predominance of deaths in the Southeast with a total of 15,980 (51.6%), and the lowest number in the North, with 1,385 (4.47%). **Conclusion:** Breast cancer is a clinical condition with a discreet symptomatology that requires constant and adequate screening as a strategy for preventing this pathology. This study showed significant growth patterns in the prevalence of hospital morbidity due to malignant breast neoplasia, which favors earlier interventions and better follow-up of these patients. The large number of patients affected by this condition from a young age justifies early screening. The regional differences in mortality rates and length of hospitalization may be due to differences in the infrastructure for screening and medical care, as well as differences in the population of each region. This study emphasizes the importance of

early screening and highlights the importance of more specific studies for each macro-region.

Keywords: Breast cancer; Epidemiological profile; Health statistics.