



WORLD  
**OVARIAN**  
CANCER  
COALITION

*The Global Ovarian Cancer Charter is a call to action for all those committed to improving survival and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer.*

# GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER CHARTER DATA BRIEFING

**CHARTER GOAL: GLOBAL PRIORITY | FEBRUARY 2022**

Ovarian cancer is one of the most lethal of female cancers. While survival rates are low globally, they are especially poor in low-resource settings, where incidence and mortality are set to rise at disproportionately higher rates by 2040.

This data briefing underscores the need for urgency in declaring ovarian cancer a global priority so the increasing burden and challenges of providing the best possible care are recognized at national, regional, and local levels.



**NO  
WOMAN  
LEFT  
BEHIND**

# GLOBAL PRIORITY DATA BRIEFING

## A GROWING ISSUE

In 2020, 313,959 women worldwide were diagnosed with ovarian cancer. By 2040 this will have risen to 445,721, an increase of 42%. The largest absolute increase in numbers is in Asia, while the greatest percentage increase is in Africa, where the number of women expected to receive an ovarian cancer diagnosis is forecast to almost double over the next two decades.

	INCIDENCE		INCREASE	
	2020	2040 <sup>1</sup>	ABSOLUTE	%
<b>Africa</b>	24,263	45,332	21,069	86.8
<b>Asia</b>	170,759	238,748	67,989	39.8
<b>Europe</b>	66,693	73,214	6,431	9.6
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	23,513	35,183	11,670	49.6
<b>North America</b>	26,630	33,531	6,901	25.9
<b>Oceania</b>	2,101	3,048	947	45.1

<sup>1</sup> Due to differences in methodology the sum of the 2040 incidence forecasts as broken down by continent differs to that forecast globally. For more information please see: <https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/about#how-to>

## A DEADLY IMPACT

As the number of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer increases, so does the number of women dying from the disease. Ovarian cancer deaths are due to rise from 207,252 in 2020 to 313,617 by 2040, an increase of 51%. In absolute terms, the greatest increase is in Asia. In Africa, the number of deaths will almost double.

	DEATHS		INCREASE	
	2020	2040 <sup>1</sup>	ABSOLUTE	%
<b>Africa</b>	17,008	32,701	15,693	92.3
<b>Asia</b>	112,936	171,676	58,740	52.0
<b>Europe</b>	44,053	51,796	7,743	17.6
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	15,266	24,755	9,489	62.2
<b>North America</b>	16,451	22,528	6,077	36.9
<b>Oceania</b>	1,538	2,392	854	55.5

<sup>1</sup> Due to differences in methodology the sum of the 2040 mortality forecasts as broken down by continent differs to that forecast globally. For more information please see: <https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/about#how-to>

# GLOBAL PRIORITY DATA BRIEFING

## MISSING WOMEN

The high mortality rate means hundreds of thousands of women die each year. If nothing changes, based on the number of deaths in 2020 alone, by 2040 there will be 4,145,040 women missing from our lives - from the dinner table, from celebrations, from holidays. This number of women who will die of ovarian cancer is equivalent to the populations of Rome or Brasilia.

This is what would happen if nothing changes. Given the rapid increase in number of women projected to be diagnosed each year, this figure will be markedly higher - unless there are significant improvements in prevention, diagnosis, and care.

***If nothing changes,  
by 2040 over***

**4 MILLION**

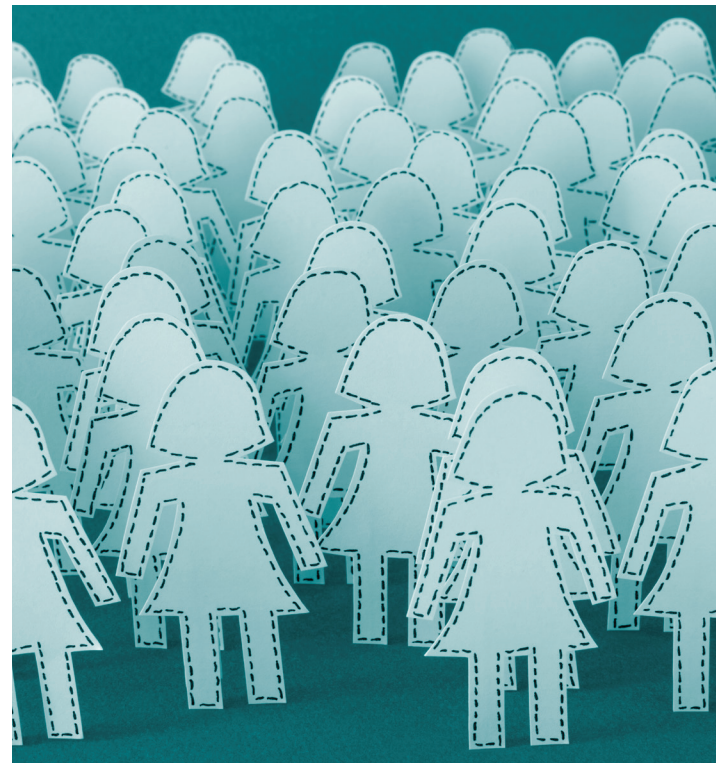
***women will be missing  
from our lives.***

## WE NEED TO ACT NOW

Women living with ovarian cancer should not suffer because of geographic or financial circumstance. With incidence and mortality projected to rise overall and at a significantly higher rate in low-resource settings, we cannot wait any longer. We need a shared global commitment to fight ovarian cancer and to fight for every life. Every woman – no matter where she lives – deserves the best chance of survival and best quality of life possible.

MISSING WOMEN 2020-2040 <sup>1</sup>	
Africa	340,160
Asia	2,258,720
Europe	881,060
Latin America & Caribbean	305,320
North America	329,020
Oceania	30,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,145,040</b>

<sup>1</sup> based on 2020 annual mortality



## SOURCES

Global Cancer Observatory: [gco.iarc.fr](https://gco.iarc.fr)  
United Nations Population Division: [population.un.org/wup](https://population.un.org/wup)