



WORLD  
**OVARIAN**  
CANCER  
COALITION

*Our vision is a world where everyone living with, or at risk of, ovarian cancer has the best chance of survival and the best quality of life possible, no matter where they live.*

# OVARIAN CANCER DATA BRIEFING

**RECOGNISING OVARIAN CANCER AS A GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITY**  
**APRIL 2024**

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal of female cancers. Survival rates are low overall around the world. Incidence and mortality are on the rise everywhere, but with disproportionately higher rates in low- and middle-income countries.

This briefing underscores the continued need for urgency in recognising ovarian cancer as a global health priority. The increasing burden and challenges of providing the best possible care and best chance of survival must be acknowledged at national, regional, and local levels.

**NO  
WOMAN  
LEFT  
BEHIND**

# OVARIAN CANCER DATA BRIEFING

In 2022, the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition analysed Globocan forecasts for ovarian cancer incidence and deaths and [found](#) that by 2040, four million lives would be lost globally if nothing was done to address this devastating disease.

Shockingly, updated projections recently released present a more harrowing picture. By 2050, just under twelve million will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and a total of eight million women will die from the disease, a figure that is greater than the population of Hong Kong or just over two times that of Los Angeles<sup>1</sup>.

**By 2050**  
**8 MILLION**  
**WOMEN**  
**will be lost to ovarian cancer if we do nothing to change the status quo.**

## THE MULTIPLYING THREAT

In 2022, 324,603 women worldwide were diagnosed with ovarian cancer. By 2050 annual incidence will have risen to nearly half a million, an increase of 55%.<sup>2</sup> The largest absolute increase in women diagnosed will be in Asia, whilst the greatest percentage increase is in Africa, where the number of women expected to receive an ovarian cancer diagnosis is forecast to more than double.



	INCIDENCE PER YEAR <sup>3</sup>		INCREASE
	2022	2050	%
<b>Africa</b>	25,760	59,747	131.9
<b>Asia</b>	178,223	265,900	49.2
<b>Europe</b>	69,472	75,570	8.8
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	24,072	39,043	62.2
<b>North America</b>	24,484	32,351	32.1
<b>Oceania</b>	2,592	4,301	65.9

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## A DEVASTATING TOLL

This monumental increase in the number of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer brings with it an equally devastating rise in the number dying from the disease. This new data shows that ovarian cancer deaths will rise from 206,956 in 2022 to over 350,000 by 2050, an increase of just under 70%.<sup>4</sup> In absolute terms, the greatest increase is in Asia. In Africa, the number of deaths will jump by almost 2.5 times.

	DEATHS PER YEAR <sup>5</sup>		INCREASE
	2022	2050	%
<b>Africa</b>	18,024	43,766	142.8
<b>Asia</b>	109,547	183,643	67.6
<b>Europe</b>	46,232	55,124	19.2
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	15,911	28,321	78.0
<b>North America</b>	15,554	22,712	46.0
<b>Oceania</b>	1,688	3,071	81.9



## THE ESCALATING COST

Hundreds of thousands of women are diagnosed and die each year from ovarian cancer, and the Coalition has commissioned a study to quantify the economic impact of this with results due later in 2024.

By 2050 just under eight million women will have vanished from our lives, devastating families, friends, communities, workplaces, and society. This number is greater than the populations of many of the world's major cities and represents the soaring human cost of doing nothing right now to change the status quo.

	TOTALS 2022-2050 <sup>6</sup>	INCIDENCE	MORTALITY
<b>Africa</b>		1,192,000	855,000
<b>Asia</b>		6,601,000	4,342,000
<b>Europe</b>		2,140,000	1,495,000
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>		919,000	639,000
<b>North America</b>		843,000	571,000
<b>Oceania</b>		101,000	69,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,796,000</b>	<b>7,971,000</b>

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## THE IMPERATIVE RESPONSE

Given the anticipated increases in incidence and mortality – particularly in lower income settings – the need for immediate and coordinated action is undeniable. We can change the future of this disease if we make significant improvements in prevention, diagnosis, and access to best possible care. No woman should be left behind and suffer because of our inaction or her circumstance.

We must:

- Recognise ovarian cancer as a global health priority.
- Include ovarian cancer in global women's health initiatives and in National Cancer Control Plans to underpin actions to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for all women.
- Address health inequities by ensuring that access to diagnostics, care, and treatment is not based on socio-economic status or demographic factors and emphasise that the best care benefits not only women but their communities, society, and the economy.



The **only** response to these new projections is 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.

- 1 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities> accessed 23 February 2024
- 2 Projections from Globocan Cancer Tomorrow [https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/dataviz/tables?cancers=25&single\\_unit=10000&years=2050](https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/dataviz/tables?cancers=25&single_unit=10000&years=2050) – accessed 28 February
- 3 Due to differences in methodology the sum of the 2050 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>
- 4 Projections from Globocan Tomorrow: [https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/dataviz/tables?cancers=25&single\\_unit=10000&years=2050&types=1](https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/en/dataviz/tables?cancers=25&single_unit=10000&years=2050&types=1), Accessed 28 February 2024
- 5 Due to differences in methodology the sum of the 2050 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>
- 6 Cumulative total incidence and mortality of ovarian cancer between 2022-2050, linear interpolation from data accessed 28 February 2024 from <https://gco.iarc.fr/tomorrow/>, rounded to the nearest 1,000.