

State of the Nation Report 2026

Summary of results for women and men diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) in England and Wales between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2023.

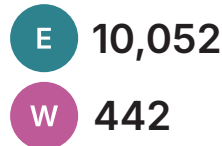


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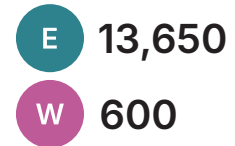
National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Key: E England W Wales

Number of people with metastatic breast cancer at diagnosis (*de novo*): 10,494



Number of people with metastatic breast cancer occurring after initial primary breast cancer diagnosis (recurrent): 14,250

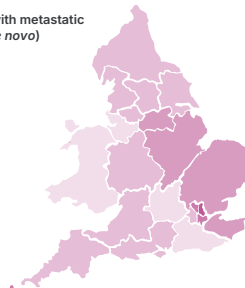


De novo metastatic breast cancer

The map shows the variation in the percentage of all people with breast cancer who were diagnosed with metastatic disease at diagnosis (*de novo*) between 2021 and 2023 across England and Wales.

Proportion of patients with metastatic disease at diagnosis (*de novo*)

- 5% to under 6%
- 6% to under 7%
- 7% to under 8%
- 8% to under 9%
- 9% and above

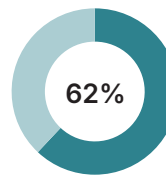


Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)

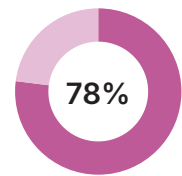
62% of people in England and 78% in Wales with *de novo* metastatic breast cancer had a recorded contact with a CNS, with significant variation (0%-100%) between NHS organisations.



E



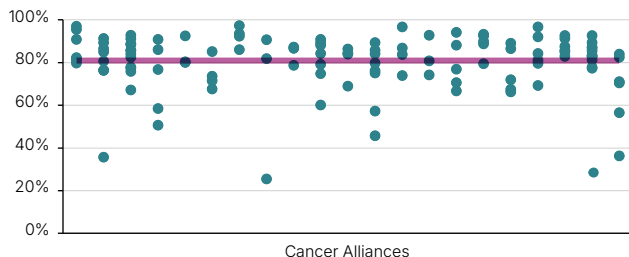
W



Multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussion

81% of people in England and 68% in Wales with newly diagnosed *de novo* metastatic breast cancer were discussed in a MDT. Variation (25%-97%) was observed between NHS organisations. Each breast unit is represented by a green circle. Cancer Alliances are arranged on the x-axis.

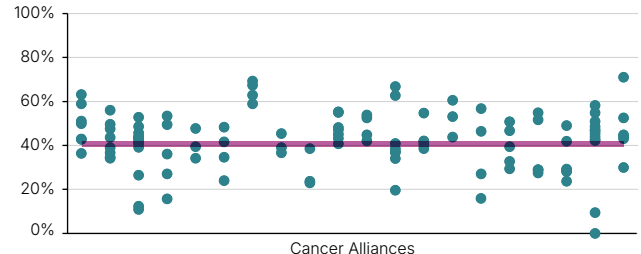
Average (England and Wales) = 81% (magenta line)



CDK4/6 inhibitor use

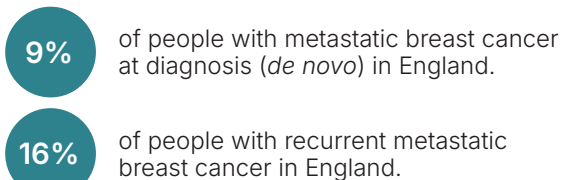
In England***, 41% of people with *de novo* ER positive HER2 negative metastatic breast cancer received CDK4/6 inhibitors, with marked variation (0%-71%) between NHS organisations. Each breast unit is represented by a green circle. Cancer Alliances are arranged on the x-axis.

Average (England) = 41% (magenta line)



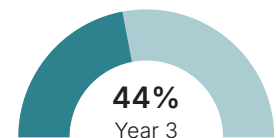
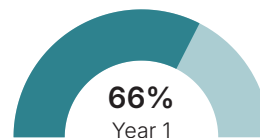
Early death after chemotherapy

Death within 30 days of chemotherapy was recorded in:

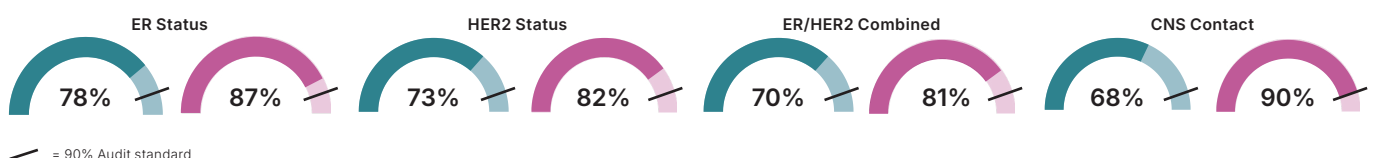


Survival for people with metastatic breast cancer at diagnosis (*de novo*)

Percent of people who survived for at least 1 or 3 years after diagnosis in England and Wales (combined)****.



Data completeness of key routine data items for people with *de novo* metastatic breast cancer in England and Wales.



Note 1: ER status = oestrogen receptor status, HER2 status = human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 status, Performance Status (scores: 0-4) is a fitness assessment tool used in oncology to stratify people based on their ability to carry out activities of daily living, CNS = Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Note 2: * *De novo* breast cancer is MBC diagnosed at initial presentation. ** Recurrent breast cancer is MBC that occurs at least six months after an initial non-metastatic breast cancer diagnosis. Information for people with recurrent breast cancer is poorly collected in data currently available. Information presented here uses methods described in the main report to identify those with recurrent MBC. *** Indicators not available for Wales due to differences in data availability.

Note 3: **** For separate figures for England and Wales please see the supplementary data tables that accompany this report.