

## **Prevalence of cancer among NARCOMS MS registry participants**

The North American Research Committee on Multiple Sclerosis (CMSC/NARCOMS) maintains a national, patient-driven registry designed to facilitate research on MS. A wide range of data, such as demographics, life-style behaviors, relapse-rates, progression of disability, treatment patterns and quality of life, is collected twice a year. The spring 2005 update survey asked about co-existing health conditions, including cancer.

A total of 9,256 NARCOMS participants responded to the spring 2005 survey either online (48%) or by mail (52%). As typical with MS, the responders were mostly Caucasian (88%) and women (75%). Their age ranged from 18 to 104 years. 573 (6.3%) of the responders reported a diagnosis of one or more types of cancer. The average age among those without a cancer diagnosis was 51 years for women and 55 for men. Those reporting cancer diagnoses tended to be older, with an average age of 58 years for women and 65 for men.

Out of the 6855 women responding to the survey, 435 (6.3 %) reported at least one cancer diagnosis. Breast cancer (2.3%) and skin cancer (1.7%) were the most frequently reported types. Among the 2259 men, 138 (6.1 %) reported at least one cancer diagnosis. Prostate cancer and skin cancer were the most common. Table 1 provides a breakdown across cancer sites. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the proportion of each type of cancer among women and men reporting at least one diagnosis of cancer.

NARCOMS is in the process of collecting and analyzing additional data to further investigate factors associated with cancer and other co-morbidities in MS. Anybody living with MS is invited to assist in this research effort by joining the registry. Participation is voluntary, confidential and free of charge. For further information please call 1-800-253-7884 or visit [www.narcoms.org](http://www.narcoms.org)

Table 1

Cancer Type	NARCOMS rate (women)	NARCOMS Rate (men)	# Women	# Men	Total *(n=601)
Bladder	0.1%	0.5%	5	12	17
Breast	2.3%	0.0%	157	0	157
Cervical	0.8%	0.0%	54	0	54
Colon	0.2%	0.3%	13	7	20
Kidney	0.1%	0.4%	6	10	16
Lung	0.1%	0.0%	4	1	5
Ovarian	0.1%	0.0%	10	0	10
Prostate	0.0%	2.2%	0	50	50
Skin	1.7%	1.9%	116	43	159
Testicular	0.0%	0.1%	0	3	3
Thyroid	0.3%	0.2%	19	4	23
Uterine	0.4%	0.0%	26	0	26
Other	0.7%	0.6%	47	14	61

\* Respondents were allowed to report more than one diagnosis of cancer

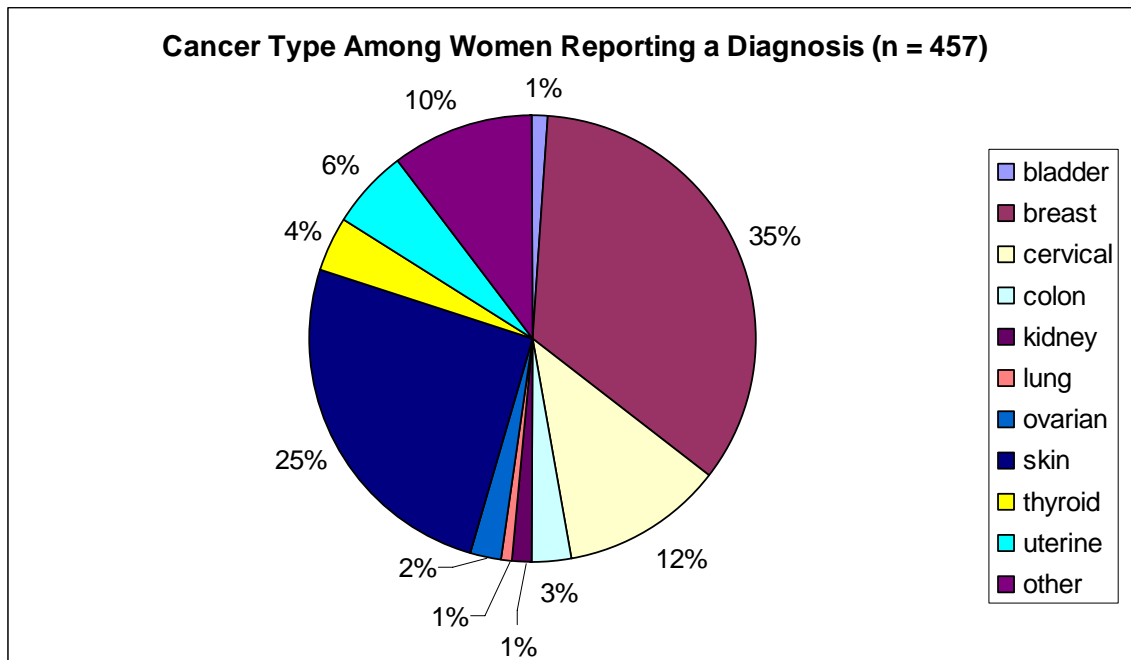


Figure 1.

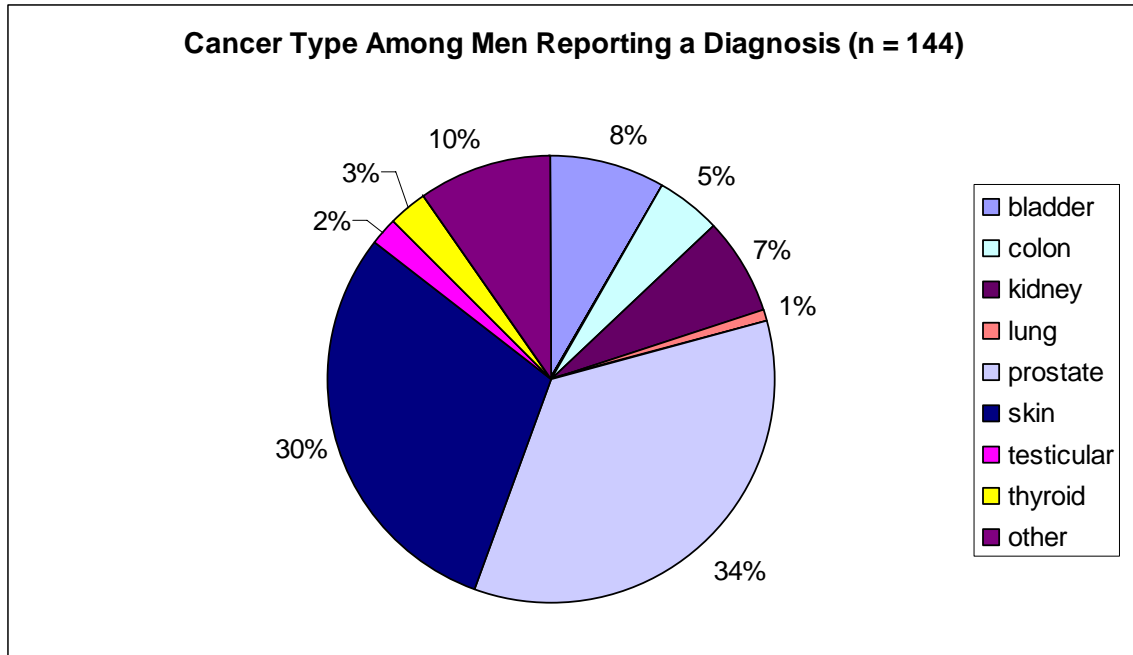


Figure 2.

Copyright: CMSC/NARCOMS, 2007