



Kelly Anne Branco
Ovarian Cancer Survivor

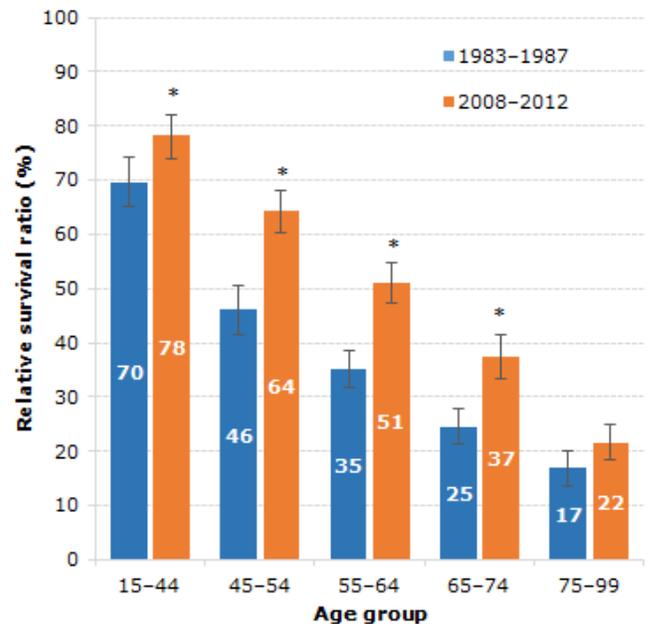
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OVARIAN CANCER SURVIVAL HAS INCREASED IN ONTARIO AMONG MOST AGE GROUPS

From 1983–1987 to 2008–2012, there was a significant increase in the five-year relative survival ratio (RSR) for women ages 15 to 74 diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The greatest improvement was seen in women ages 45 to 54. Their RSR rose from 46.1 percent in 1983–1987 to 64.3 percent in 2008–2012, which means that they were estimated to be 64.3 percent as likely to survive for another five years as women of a similar age in the general population.

Relative survival also significantly increased in women ages 15 to 44 diagnosed with ovarian cancer (by eight percentage points), as well as in women ages 55 to 64 (by 16 percentage points) and in women ages 65 to 74 (by 12 percentage points). Women ages 75 to 99 had the lowest five-year RSR in 2008–2012; although their RSR increased, it did not change significantly from 1983–1987.

Ovarian cancer five-year relative survival ratios (RSR), by age group, Ontario, 1983–1987 and 2008–2012



*Significantly higher 5-year RSR in 2008–2012 compared to 1983–1987.

Source: Ontario Cancer Registry, 2015 (Cancer Care Ontario)

Note: Complete survival was used for the 2008–2012 time period; the cohort method was used for the 1983–1987 time period.

- » In Ontario, the five-year relative survival ratio for women ages 15 to 74 improved significantly from 1983–1987 to 2008–2012.
- » Age is an important predictor of ovarian cancer survival because treatment plans and outcomes are different for each age group.
- » Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a better chance of surviving than ever before as a result of improved detection and treatment practices.

It is important to understand ovarian cancer survival by age group because age guides appropriate treatment plans and remains a strong predictor of survival.¹ Younger women are more likely to be diagnosed early and respond well to treatment, while older women are more likely to have other health conditions (e.g., heart disease, diabetes) that affect their treatment plan and likelihood of treatment complications.²⁻⁴

Although ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at advanced stages, particularly in older women, new detection and treatments of this disease, including chemotherapy regimens and delivery, genetic screening and advanced surgical techniques, have led to an increase in ovarian cancer survival. However, the overall age-standardized five-year RSR for ovarian cancer is still relatively low at 42.0 percent (2008–2012).

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer among women in Ontario and poses a unique burden because most cases are found at advanced stages when they are harder to treat. Common risk factors for ovarian cancer include family history of the disease, never being pregnant, personal history of breast cancer, tobacco use, obesity and use of hormone replacement therapy. Approximately one in 60 women living in Ontario will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in their lifetime.

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