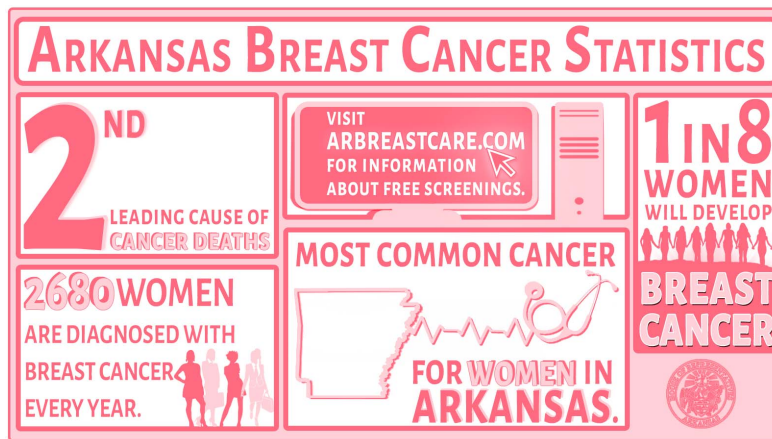




# Arkansas House Newsletter

**October 18, 2024**

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month



As Breast Cancer Awareness Month continues during October, it is important to reflect on the progress that has been made in the fight against breast cancer in Arkansas. The Breast Cancer Act of 1997 was a crucial step in providing women with access to life-saving screenings through the BreastCare program. Since then, over 141,850 women have been enrolled in the program, receiving free breast and cervical cancer screenings.

Despite these efforts, breast cancer continues to be a significant health concern in Arkansas. Nearly 400 women lose their lives to breast cancer each year, and over 2680 women are diagnosed with the disease. According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, one in eight women will develop breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer for women in Arkansas and the second leading cause of cancer death for women both in Arkansas and in the United States.

Early detection is key in improving survival rates, which is why regular screenings are important.

The passage of Act 553 in 2021 further emphasized the importance of screening mammography for women at higher risk of breast cancer. By ensuring that insurers offer screening mammograms as an essential health benefit, regardless of age, we are taking steps to improve early detection and treatment outcomes for women in Arkansas.

Early detection can save lives, and the BreastCare program is here to help. For more information on eligibility and finding a provider, visit [www.ARBreastCare.com](http://www.ARBreastCare.com) (<http://www.ARBreastCare.com>) or call 1-833-693-2942.

As we close out Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us remember that the fight against this disease is ongoing. By spreading awareness, supporting those affected, and advocating for research, we can work towards a future where breast cancer is no longer a threat.