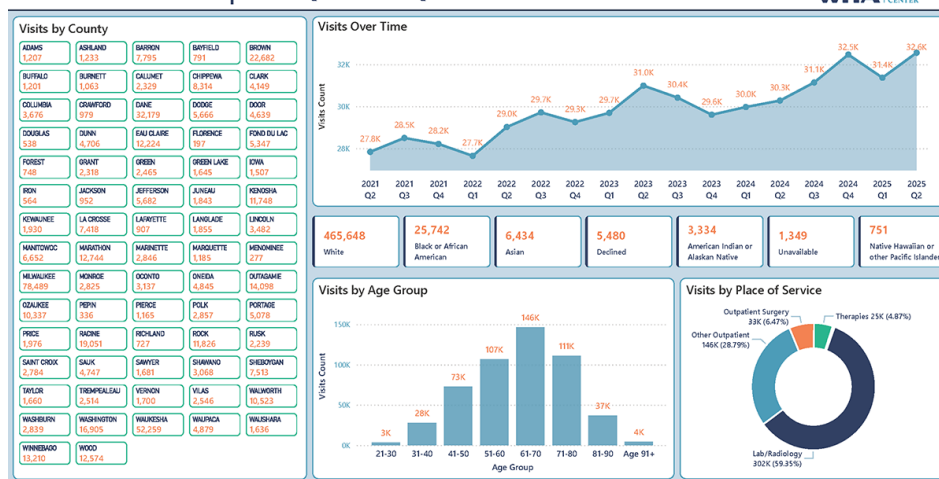


Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, almost 371,000 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the United States in 2025 and one in eight women will be diagnosed in her lifetime. Second to skin cancer, breast cancer is the most diagnosed form of cancer in women. It is also the second leading cause of cancer death in women. According to the National Cancer Institute, the rate of invasive breast cancer (per 100,000 women) in Wisconsin is 133 cases. There are roughly 3.8 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States. And while it is rare, men can also be affected by breast cancer. In 2025, it is estimated that almost 2,800 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with the disease.

The WHA Information Center analyzed data from January 2021 to January 2025 for breast cancer visits. The age category with the highest number of visits is 61-70 years old. Most patients were seen in outpatient lab and radiology (OLR). Milwaukee County has the highest number of visits, followed by Waukesha County.

Breast Cancer Visits | 2021 Q2 - 2025 Q2



Below are some common myths about breast cancer from the National Breast Cancer Foundation:

- Myth:** Finding a lump in your breast means that you have breast cancer.

Truth: Only a small percentage of breast lumps turn out to be cancer. But if you discover a persistent lump in your breast that is new or notice any changes in breast tissue, it should never be ignored.
- Myth:** A mammogram can cause breast cancer to spread.

Truth: A mammogram, or x-ray of the breast, currently remains the gold standard for the early detection of breast cancer. Breast compression while getting a mammogram cannot cause cancer to spread. The standard recommendation is an annual mammographic screening for women beginning at age 40.
- Myth:** If you have a family history of breast cancer, you are likely to develop breast cancer, too.

Truth: While women who have a family history of breast cancer are in a higher risk group, most women who have breast cancer have no family history. Statistically, only about 10% of individuals diagnosed with breast cancer have a family history of this disease. If you have a mother, daughter or sister who developed breast cancer before the age of 50, you should consider some form of breast imaging starting 10 years before the age of your relative's diagnosis. If you have had a grandmother or aunt who was diagnosed with breast cancer, your risk increases slightly, but not as much as those who have a first degree relative with breast cancer.

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EDUCATION EVENTS

Oct. 30, 2025

careLearning Overview: Learning Management System (LMS)

Nov. 6, 2025

Hospital Board Education

Jan. 28, 2026

2026 WHA Health Care Leadership Academy