Background
Breast cancer is an umbrella term for uncontrolled cell growth that begins in the breast. The many types of breast cancer are generally classified by two factors – where the cancer is located, and whether it is prone to spreading. Cancers that occur in the milk ducts are ductal, and cancers that form in the lobules where breast milk is made are lobular. If there is no spreading, the cancer is in situ, otherwise it is invasive (http://www.imaginis.com/breasthealth/breast_cancer.asp).

The National Cancer Institute, a component of the National Institutes of Health, estimates that, based on current rates, 12.1 percent of women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some time in their lives. According to their estimates, in 2009 there will be an expected 192,370 new cases of breast cancer in women and 40,170 deaths, although today nearly 90% of women diagnosed with breast cancer will survive their disease at least five years. Breast cancer is not limited to women. In 2009, there will be an estimated 1,910 new cases of breast cancer in men and 440 deaths (http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/breast).

National Costs of Breast Cancer
- The national expenditure for medical treatment of breast cancer in the US was estimated at 8.1 billion dollars in 2004 (http://progressreport.cancer.gov).
- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women today (after lung cancer) and is the most common cancer among women, excluding nonmelanoma skin cancers (http://www.imaginis.com/breasthealth/breast_cancer.asp).
- Older women are at higher risk, though breast cancer tends to be less aggressive as age increases. Thus, younger women who develop breast cancer have a lower survival rate than older women (http://imaginis.com/breasthealth/statistics.asp).

In fiscal year 2008:
- 3,043 Medicaid recipients had paid claims associated with a primary diagnosis of breast cancer or .33% of the total Medicaid recipient population.
- Total medical expenditures for this population were $43,292,641, accounting for 1.21% of the state Medicaid expenditures.

Prevalence of Breast Cancer among Women Enrolled in South Carolina Medicaid by County (N = 3,043)

Breast Cancer Cases per 1,000 Women Enrolled in Medicaid

- Total Cases per County


Developed under contract for the SC Department of Health and Human Services.
This fact sheet and important information about its use and data limitations can be found at www.ifsq.sc.edu/HSR/Factsheets.