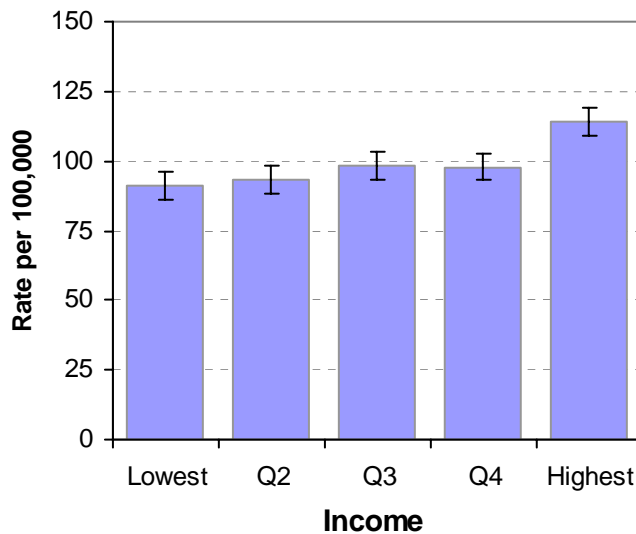


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## Breast Cancer Incidence

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**Figure 15: Age Standardized Breast Cancer Incidence Rate<sup>1</sup>, by Income<sup>2</sup>, Females, Toronto, 1999 - 2003 Combined**



<sup>1</sup> Age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population. Rate is per 100,000 population per year.

<sup>2</sup> Income is the population quintile by proportion of the population below the LICO in census tracts.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Cancer Care Ontario, Ontario Cancer Registry, 1999-2003, August 2008.

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Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in Toronto (100 per 100,000 per year).

There was a reverse gradient in breast cancer incidence rates across income quintiles in Toronto. Females in the highest income quintile (Q5) had a rate significantly higher than all other quintiles. This gradient is similar to that found in other populations. The highest breast cancer incidence rate (114 per 100,000) was in the highest income quintile and a step-wise decrease in rates to 91 per 100,000 in the lowest income quintile (Q1).

The higher breast cancer rates commonly seen among affluent women have been attributed to known risk factors such as delayed childbirth, a greater use of hormone replacement therapy and oral contraceptives.<sup>30</sup> In addition, inequalities in access to screening could potentially contribute to the difference in incidence.

The rate of breast cancer in Toronto females in the highest income quintile was 11% above the overall incidence rate in the rest of Ontario.