A Disease Breaks Free

Breast cancer is on the rise. Big countries have the most cases but not always the highest incidence (cases per 100,000 people). Rates in the developing world may be even worse than the spotty data show.

The map shows breast-cancer incidence by country
Rate per 100,000 people, 2002

Reported breast cancer by region, rate per 100,000 people, 2002

Breast-cancer incidence trends beginning in 1975 in selected countries
Rate per 100,000 people

Note: All rates are age-standardized.

TIME Graphic by Joe Lertola