

Table 1 Incidence rates of breast cancer among women in 5 provinces in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1996–2000

Province	Cases		Crude rate	ASR	SE	Rank ^a
	No.	%				
Mazandaran	899	37.1	20.5	23.9 ^b	0.84	1
Kerman	554	22.8	11.2	16.9 ^b	0.68	1
Golestan	349	14.4	11.6	15.7	0.82	1
Gilan	513	21.1	10.1	12.6 ^c	0.57	1
Ardabil	106	4.3	4.7	7.6 ^c	0.68	3
All	2421	100.0	–	16.2	0.42	

^aBreast cancer compared to rank of cancer at other sites.

^bSignificantly higher than for the rest of the provinces, $P < 0.05$.

^cSignificantly lower than for the rest of the provinces, $P < 0.05$.

ASR = age standardized rate per 100 000 (direct method, world standard population).

SE = standard error.