

Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center: September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

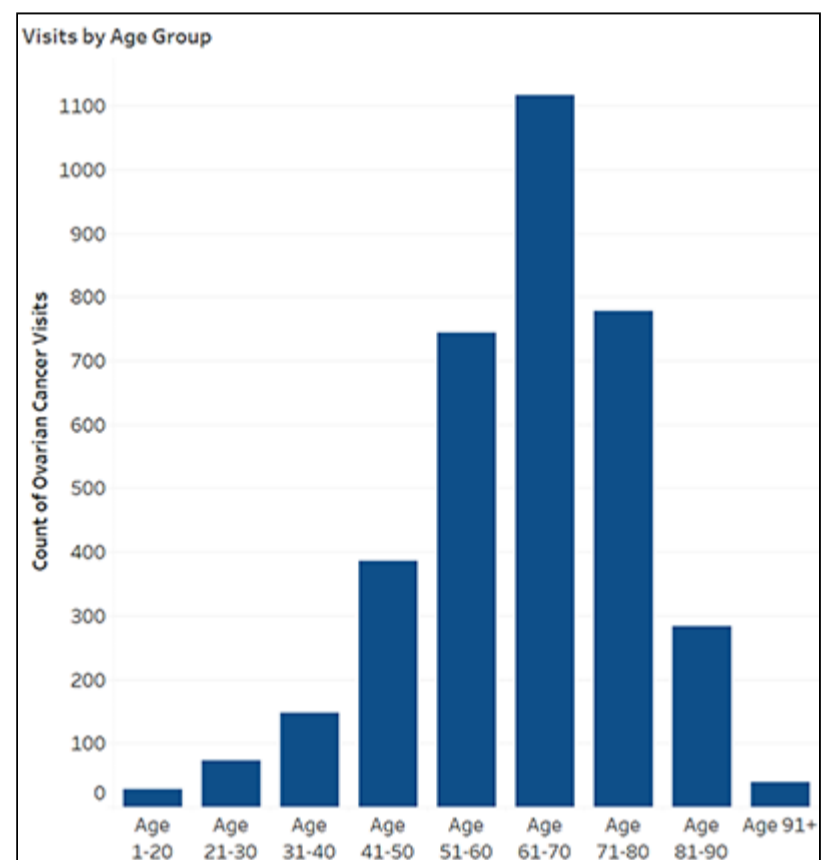
In the United States, September is known as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 19,000 women are estimated to be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2023. Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of death among women and mainly develops in older women. Almost 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer in 2023. The incidence rate of ovarian cancer has slowly been declining since the early 2000s, which could be due partly to the increased use of oral contraceptives.



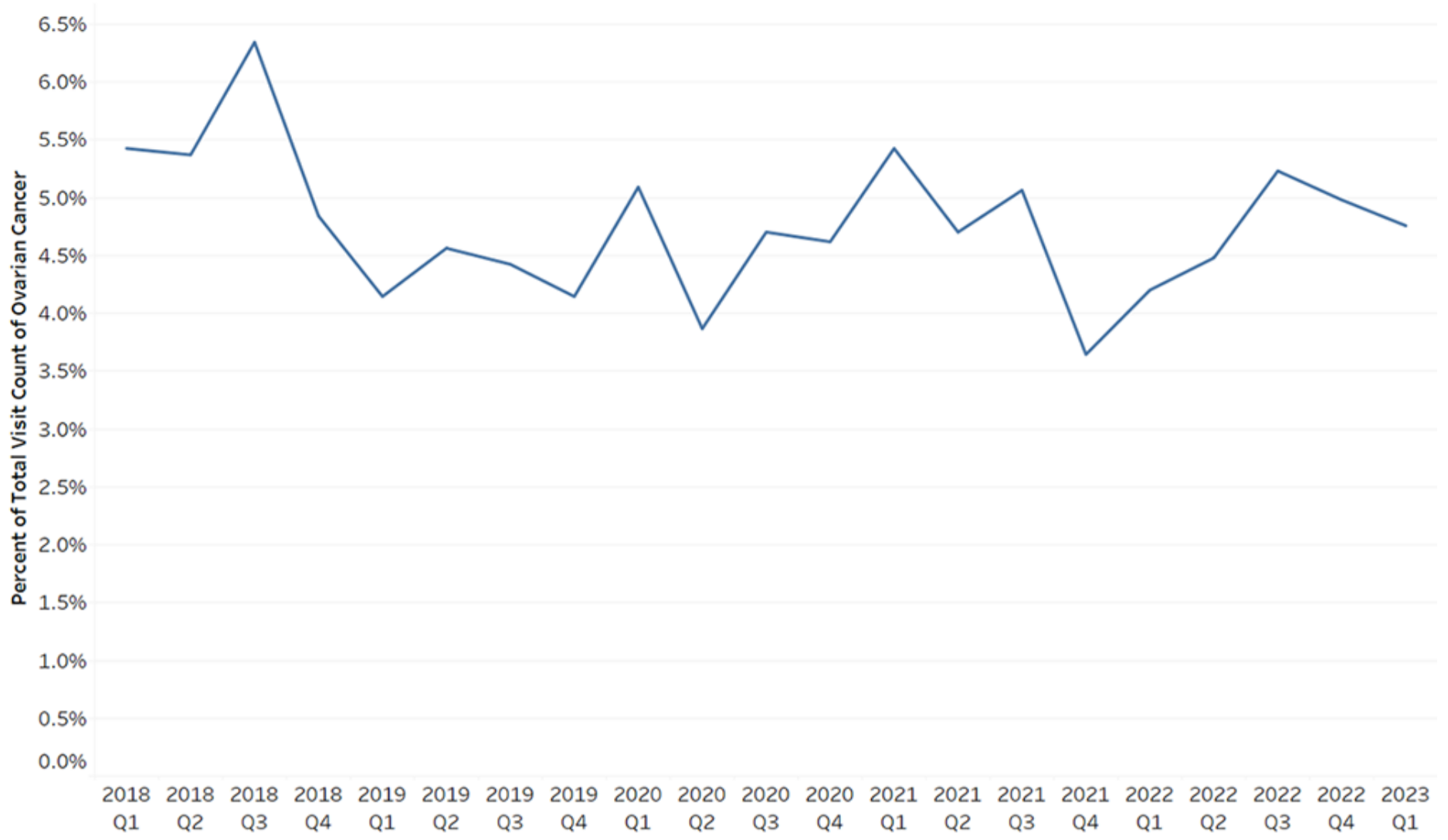
The WHA Information Center analyzed visits related to ovarian cancer from Wisconsin hospitals in the past few years. The average age of patients visiting for ovarian cancer is 63 years, which follows the national trend of older women being more likely to develop the cancer. The age group with the highest visit count is ages 61-70, followed by ages 71-80. The timeline analyzing counts from the previous year indicates a decreasing number of visits.

Risk factors for ovarian cancer from the American Cancer Society include:

- **Aging:** Most ovarian cancers develop after menopause. Half of all ovarian cancers are found in women 63 years of age or older.
- **Being overweight or obese:** Obese women (those with a body mass index [BMI] of at least 30) probably have a higher risk of developing ovarian cancer, but not necessarily the most aggressive types, such as high-grade serous cancers.
- **Having a family history of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, or colorectal cancer**
- **Having children later or not having a full-term pregnancy:** Women who have their first full-term pregnancy after age 35 or who never carried a pregnancy to term have a higher risk of ovarian cancer.



Percent of Ovarian Cancer Visit Count by Year Quarter



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