

# What's the risk?

Paul Fischbeck, a social and decision sciences professor at Carnegie Mellon University, runs a database called [www.death-riskrankings.com](http://www.death-riskrankings.com). The following figures from the database show that while breast cancer is the leading killer of 50-year-old women in the United States, the overall risk is quite low.

The 10 leading causes of death for a 50-year-old American woman:

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Odds</b>
1) Breast cancer	668	1 in 3,025
2) Heart attack	581	1 in 3,478
3) Cancer lung/throat	490	1 in 4,123
4) Other cancers	321	1 in 6,294
5) Other circulatory	309	1 in 6,539
6) Heart disease	279	1 in 7,242
7) Diabetes	218	1 in 9,268
8) Other heart disease	218	1 in 9,268
9) Liver disease	198	1 in 10,205
10) Respiratory system	190	1 in 10,634