

Research Findings: Survey of U.S. Women to Understand Awareness of Ovarian Cancer and Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer (LGSOC)

Measuring knowledge, awareness, understanding of ovarian cancer, including LGSOC, among American women in comparison to other key cancer types and health conditions common among women

General Population Survey Research Method

**Audience:**

1,087 women 18+ who reside in the United States

**Survey Timing:**

October 10 – 12, 2023

**Mode:**

5-minute online survey conducted via the Harris On Demand omnibus platform

**Weighting:**

Data are weighted as needed to reflect the U.S. population

Method Statement

The general population survey was conducted online in the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Verastem Oncology among 1,087 women ages 18+ (defined as those whose sex at birth was female). The survey was conducted October 10-12, 2023. Data are weighted where necessary by age, gender, race/ethnicity, region, education, marital status, household size, and household income to bring them in line with their actual proportions in the population.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in our surveys. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points using a 95% confidence level. This credible interval will be wider among subsets of the surveyed population of interest. All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to other multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including, but not limited to coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments.

Report Notes

In tables and charts:

- Percentages may not add up to 100% due to weighting, computer rounding, and/or the acceptance of multiple responses.
- An asterisk (*) in a data chart indicates a percentage greater than zero but less than 1%; a “ – ” indicates a value of zero.
- Results based on small samples (n<100) are too small to report quantitatively and should be interpreted as directional only. These are noted with “*Caution, small base (n<100).”

Throughout this report:

- We may refer to low-grade serous ovarian cancer as “LGSOC”, to high-grade serous ovarian cancer as “HGSOC”, to treatment(s) as “Tx(s),” , to diagnosis as “Dx”, to health care provider as “HCP,” and/or to quality of life as “QOL” for brevity.
- Base labels, sizes, and question text are included within the notes section of each page for reference.

Key Findings

Key Findings



Despite a majority of U.S. women finding it important to know about all health conditions they could experience in their lifetime and two-thirds being concerned about developing cancer in their lifetime, American women are not prioritizing their ovarian health and are less knowledgeable about ovarian cancer compared to other health conditions common among women such as breast cancer, heart disease, or osteoporosis.

- 8 in 10 U.S. women (81%) find it important to know about all health conditions they could experience in their lifetime and 65% are worried about developing some form of cancer in their lifetime.
 - However, more than half (56%) have never really thought about their ovarian health and just 34% say they are just as concerned about their ovarian health as they are with other aspects of their health.
- Women are less knowledgeable about ovarian cancer (63% somewhat/very knowledgeable) compared to other health conditions common among women like breast cancer (78%), heart disease (74%), and osteoporosis (66%).
- Less than 1 in 5 American women (17%) have heard of low-grade serous ovarian cancer and a similarly small proportion (17%) feel very knowledgeable about ovarian cancer in general.
- Of the 17% of American women who have heard about low-grade serous ovarian cancer, less than 2 in 5 U.S. women know LGSOC can be difficult to diagnose (38%), often affects younger people (30%), and is a distinct, rare subtype of ovarian cancer (28%).

Key Findings

Educating women that symptoms can be easily misdiagnosed and about the importance of listening to one's body and seeking medical attention when experiencing symptoms as soon as possible are both the biggest things women with LGSOC want others to know about it and the most motivating factors for women to learn more about it. Most U.S. women say they are in tune with their body and pay close attention to changes they experience as they age; however, only a minority feel strongly that their doctors listen to them or take their symptoms and concerns seriously, and few are comfortable discussing their ovarian health with an HCP.

- Knowing that symptoms can be easily misdiagnosed (41%) and the importance of listening to your body and seeking medical attention as soon as possible (32%) are most motivating for women to learn more about LGSOC.
- Nearly 9 in 10 U.S. women (89%) say they are in tune with their body and pay close attention to changes they experience as they age, but only 37% strongly agree that they feel like their doctors listen to them or take their symptoms and concerns seriously.
 - Less than 1 in 5 (19%) feel comfortable talking with their HCP about their ovarian cancer and two-thirds feel they have no control of their ovarian health (67%), or they get stressed out thinking about it (67%).



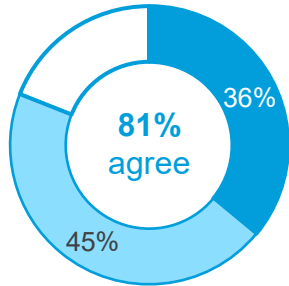
Detailed Findings

The majority of U.S. women find it important to know about all health conditions they could experience in their lifetime

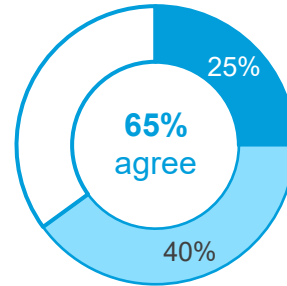
And, nearly two-thirds are worried about developing some form of cancer in their lifetime



General Health Attitudes



It is important to me to know about all health conditions or diseases that I could experience throughout my lifetime.



I am worried about developing some form of cancer in my lifetime.

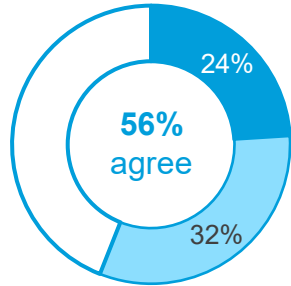
■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly/somewhat disagree

However, more than half say they've never really thought about their ovarian health

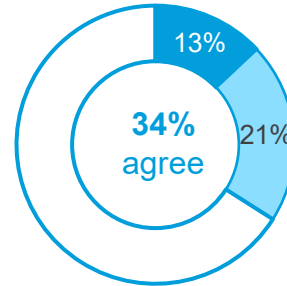
And, only ~1 in 3 say they are just as concerned about their ovarian health as they are with other aspects of their health



Ovarian Health Attitudes



I've never really thought about my ovarian health



I'm just as concerned about my ovarian health as I am with other aspects of my health

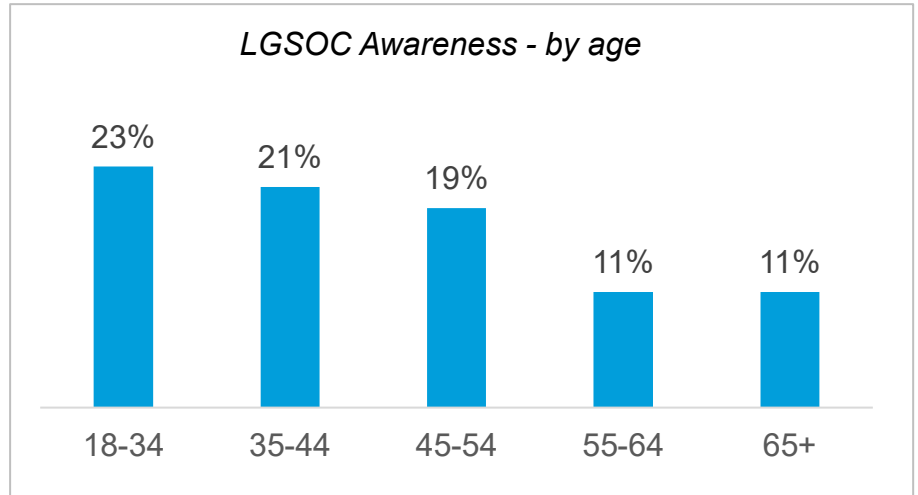
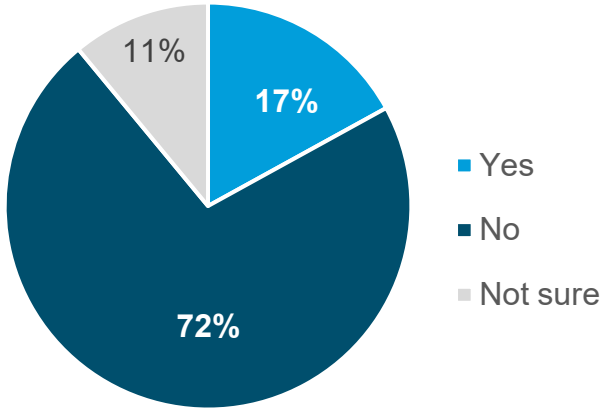
■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly/somewhat disagree

Less than 1 in 5 American women have heard of low-grade serous ovarian cancer

Younger women are more likely to have heard of LGSOC



LGSOC Awareness



U.S. women are less knowledgeable about ovarian cancer compared to other health conditions

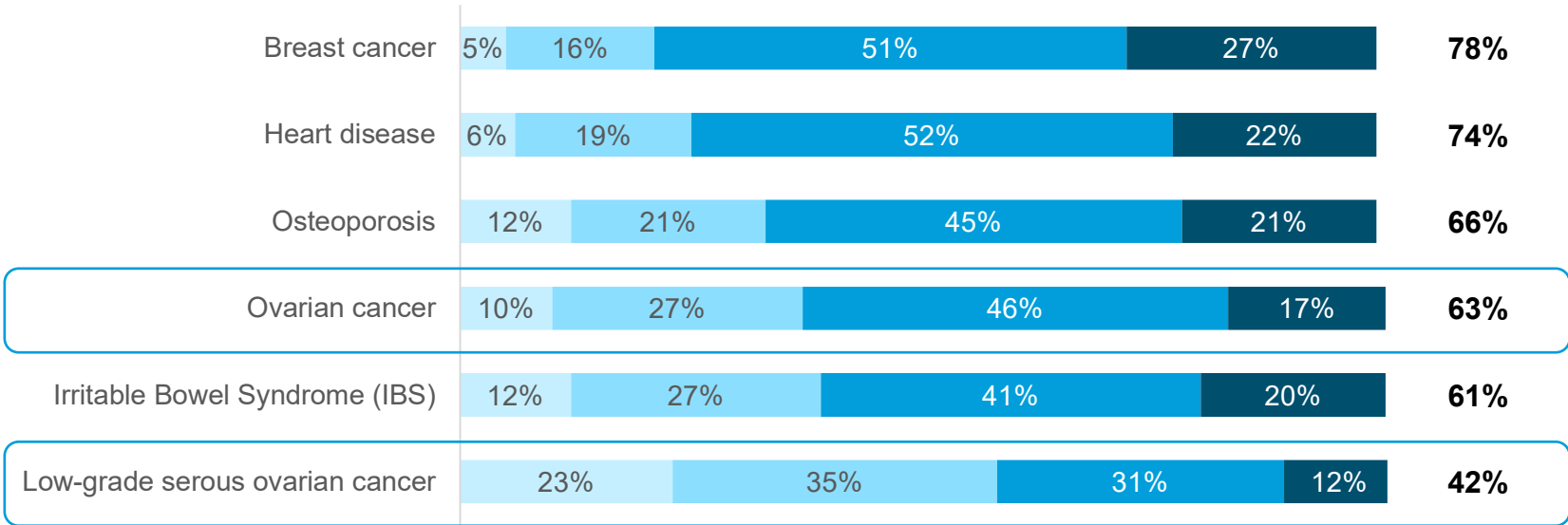
Few women feel very knowledgeable about LGSOC



U.S.
Women
18+

Knowledgeable
(% somewhat/very)

Knowledge of Health Conditions



■ Not at all knowledge
 ■ Not very knowledge
 ■ Somewhat knowledgeable
 ■ Very knowledgeable

The majority of women don't know important information about LGSOC like it can be difficult to diagnose, often affects younger people, and is a distinct, rare subtype of ovarian cancer

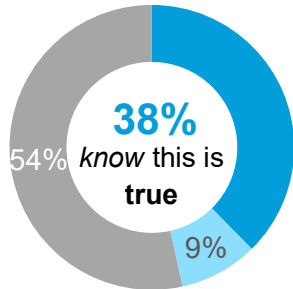


These are things women with LGSOC wish others knew and paid more attention to

Knowledge Of LGSOC Specifics

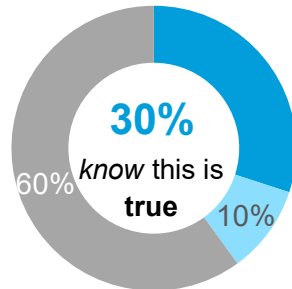
TRUE

LGSOC can be difficult to diagnose because symptoms are similar to other cancers or diseases/disorders.



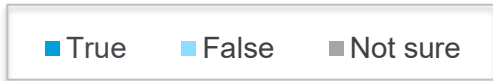
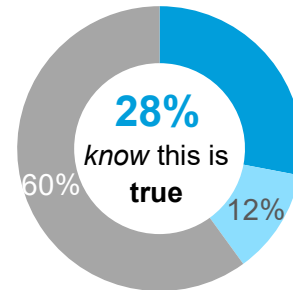
TRUE

LGSOC can affect younger people more so than other forms of ovarian cancer.



TRUE

Low-grade serous ovarian cancer is a distinct, rare subtype of ovarian cancer.



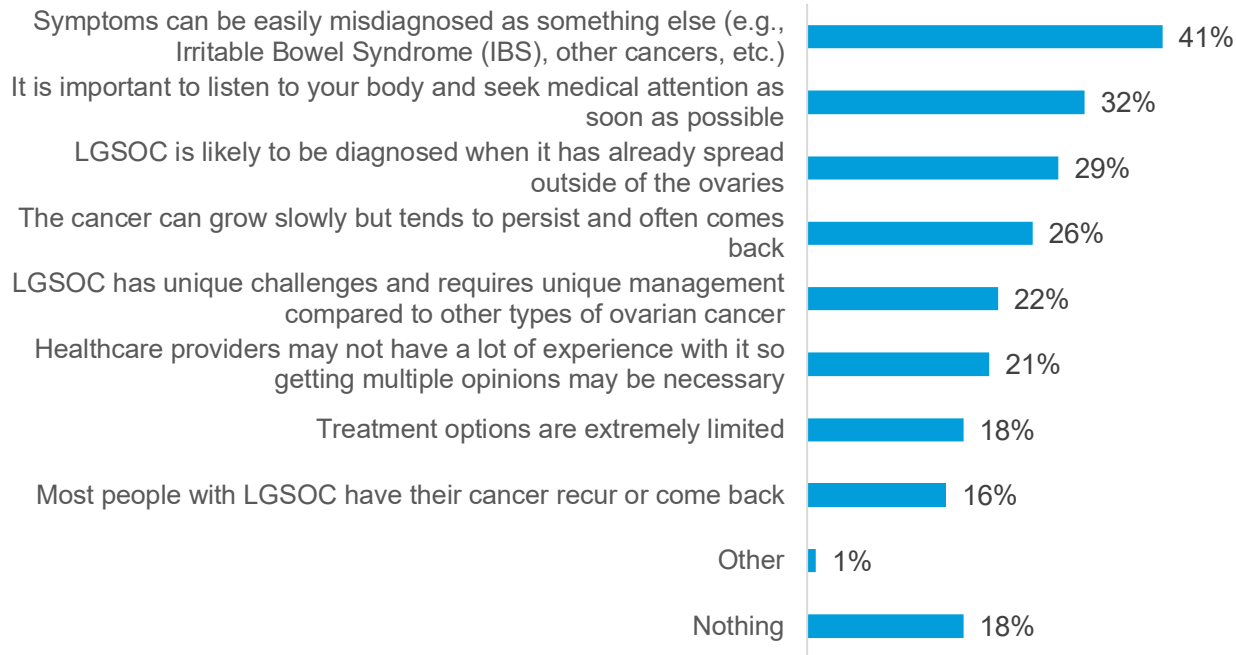
Knowing that symptoms can be easily misdiagnosed is most motivating for women to learn more about LGSOC

The importance of listening to your body and seeking medical attention and that LGSOC is likely to be diagnosed once it has spread are motivating for ~3 in 10



Statements That Would Most Motivate Women To Learn More About LGSOC

Select up to 3



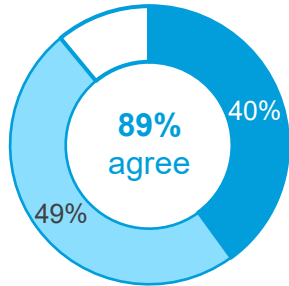
Most U.S. women say they are in tune with their body and pay close attention to changes they experience as they age

Women with LGSOC feel it's important that other women know this and seek medical attention as soon as possible if they feel something is off

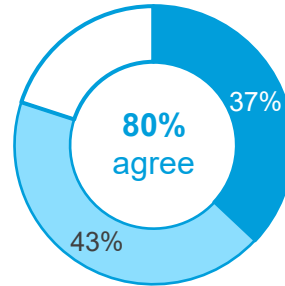


U.S.
Women
18+

General Health Attitudes



I am very in tune with my body and pay close attention to any changes I experience as I age



I feel like my doctors listen to me or take my symptoms and concerns seriously

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly/somewhat disagree

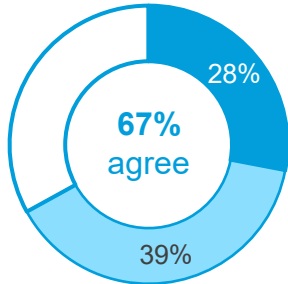
Two-thirds of U.S. women feel they have no control over their ovarian health

Many get stressed out thinking about their ovarian health and very few are comfortable talking about their ovarian health with an HCP

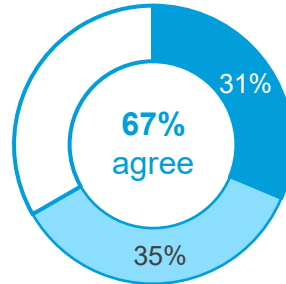


U.S.
Women
18+

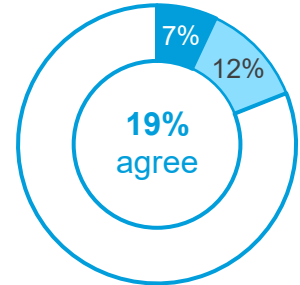
Ovarian Health Attitudes



I have no control over my ovarian health



I get stressed out when I think about my ovarian health



I am comfortable talking about my ovarian health with my healthcare provider

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly/somewhat disagree

Demographics

Demographics

Base: U.S. Women 18+ [n=1,087]	
Sex at birth	
Female	100%
Age	
18-24	11%
25-34	17%
35-44	17%
45-54	15%
55-64	17%
65+	24%
Mean	48.9
Employment	
Employed (NET)	51%
Employed full time	36%
Employed part time	10%
Self-employed	6%
Not Employed (NET)	50%
Retired	23%
Homemaker	11%
Not employed, looking for work	6%
Not employed, unable to work due to disability or illness	5%
Student	5%
Not employed, not looking for work	3%
Marital Status	
Never married	27%
Married/living with partner	52%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	9%
Separated	2%

Base: U.S. Women 18+ [n=1,087]	
Race	
White	61%
Hispanic	19%
Black or African American	11%
Asian (NET)	6%
Other/more than 1 race	3%
Income	
<\$25k	15%
\$25k-<\$50k	17%
\$50k - <\$75k	15%
\$75k-<\$100k	12%
\$100k+	40%
Decline to answer	1%
Education	
Less than HS	11%
HS degree to less than 4 year college degree	58%
4 year college degree+	32%
Region	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	40%
West	21%
Parental Status	
Parent	59%
Parent of child(ren) < 18	30%
Parent of child(ren) 18+	34%
Children < 18 in Household	
Yes	38%
No	62%