

2025 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Breast Cancer Disparities & Inequities



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE: (1982-2025)

Over **\$140 million** in more than **330** research grants and nearly **200** clinical trials focused on disparities & inequities



IMPROVING CARE & OUTCOMES FOR ALL

Advances in breast cancer research have led to improvements in treatment and overall breast cancer outcomes. Unfortunately, these improvements have not benefited all populations. Some populations have a higher likelihood of being diagnosed with or dying from breast cancer compared to others. Differences in access to high-quality care, insurance coverage and financial resources, among other factors, have led to worse breast cancer outcomes in many communities. Komen is dedicated to eliminating breast cancer disparities and inequities by investing in research focused on the causes of these differences, strategies to reduce them, and by training the next generation of scientists in research focused on improving care and outcomes for all.

Learn more about improving care & outcomes for all [here](#).

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH



- Genetic and immune factors in women with [African ancestry](#) may help determine personal [breast cancer risk](#) and treatment decisions, particularly for Black women in the U.S., a population more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive breast cancers.
- Black people with metastatic triple negative breast cancer were less likely to receive immunotherapy than white people despite similar responses to therapy. Efforts should be made to ensure equal access to care.
- Lower [screening mammography](#) rates were reported for rural Hispanic women than rural white non-Hispanic women, highlighting the need for interventions to promote access to screening mammography services.



[Learn More About Breast Cancer](#)

[More Komen-Funded Research Stories](#)

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WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING

- Using tumor imaging and blood tests for biomarkers to find differences in breast tumors between racial and ethnic groups. This may help better predict the risk of breast cancer [recurrence](#) and alleviate disparities in outcome.
- [Studying DNA mutations](#) and the location of immune cells in tumors from Black women may help determine why Black women face a higher risk for recurrence and metastasis.
- Investigating the impact social determinants of health (where people are born, live, learn, work, play, pray and age) have on breast cancer disparities, while also looking at the impact of stress on the immune system and breast cancer progression.

IN THE KOMEN RESEARCH PIPELINE: (1982-2025)

MORE THAN 600 NEW STRATEGIES TO REDUCE BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES.

SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Alissa Michele is using her Komen Career Transition Award to develop and test tools that empower women to make informed decisions about including an MRI in their breast cancer screening plan. This research includes a clinical trial to boost screening among individuals from diverse groups at high-risk for breast cancer. Learn more about breast cancer screening in women at higher risk [here](#).

