

2026 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Breast Cancer Disparities & Inequities



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE: (1982-2026)

Over **\$144 million** in more than **330** research grants and over **200** clinical trials focused on disparities & inequities



BETTER CARE & OUTCOMES FOR ALL

Advances in breast cancer research have led to improvements in treatment and breast cancer outcomes. Unfortunately, these improvements have not benefited all people. 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 focused on improving care and outcomes for all.

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

WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING

- Using a new artificial intelligence (AI) derived risk imaging score to test if glucose-lowering and weight management medications like GLP-1 receptor agonists are associated with lower [breast cancer risk in Black women](#).
- Identifying differences in how the body's immune system responds to breast tumors between Black and white women may help optimize treatment options and alleviate outcome disparities in Black women with breast cancer.
- Investigating the impact social determinants of health (where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and pray) have on breast cancer disparities, while also looking at the impact of stress on the immune system and breast cancer progression.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH



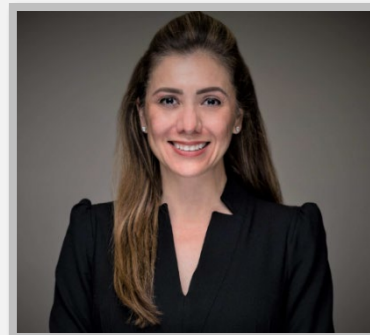
- The [Carolina Breast Study](#) found that Black women were more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer due to factors such as where they live, income, and health care access, highlighting the role of social & economic barriers in breast cancer disparities.
- >60% of Black women experienced [financial toxicity](#) associated with chemotherapy, highlighting the need for proactive financial assistance to mitigate the adverse effects of financial toxicity on treatment.
- The Black Women's Health Study (BWHS) breast cancer risk model predicted risk more accurately for Black women than two commonly used clinical models, especially among younger women and those without recent mammograms.

IN THE KOMEN RESEARCH PIPELINE: (1982-2026)

MORE THAN **600 NEW STRATEGIES** TO REDUCE BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES.

SPOTLIGHT

Komen Scholar Dr. Mariana Chavez MacGregor is using her Komen Leadership grant to investigate the role of race and ethnicity, insurance coverage, and socioeconomic factors in people's ability to complete their breast cancer treatments with the goal of alleviating disparities in care and outcomes. Learn more [here](#).



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