

Closing the Breast Cancer Gap:

A Roadmap to Save the Lives of Black Women in America

DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX

DALLAS COUNTY SEE HIGHEST RACIAL DISPARITY IN BREAST CANCER DEATHS IN NORTH TEXAS

Cost of Diagnostics, Treatment & Transportation Among Causes

A new in-depth report from Susan G. Komen exposes the tragic racial disparities of breast cancer in North Texas. In every county in the DFW area, the breast cancer mortality rate among Black women is higher than the rate among white women.

Focus group participants cited transportation as a significant barrier. High-quality care and screening may require an hour drive and public transportation is not as robust as in other metropolitan areas. The report identified a need for imaging centers in predominantly Black communities, as well as centers that accept the uninsured.

Patient navigators and providers described cost barriers that delay treatment and competing priorities that often cause patients to choose work over healthcare. As one survivor explained, those with employer-sponsored insurance when diagnosed may lose their insurance over the course of treatment if they're no longer able to work.

“When people with little access to healthcare are finally diagnosed with breast cancer, they may not have a smooth pathway to treatment. They may have challenges with income, childcare, transportation, all kinds of challenges, which are monumental in some cases. As a result, it may take these patients longer to get treated. Providers recommend about 30 days but for these patients, it may be much, much longer—60 to 90 days.”

- Provider

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- There is a racial divide in DFW resulting in drastic disparities in breast cancer outcomes. Dallas County experiences the greatest disparity among all area counties.
- In Black communities, there is a lack of access to breast imaging centers, especially those that accept the uninsured or those on government insurance.
- The cost of diagnostics, treatment and transportation are driving disparities in outcomes, even when government safety-net hospitals offer financial assistance.
- Most breast cancer resources are located in Dallas County. Many rural counties do not have access to mobile mammography, cancer coalitions or support groups.
- Inequities exist across the breast cancer continuum of care due to economic vulnerability, lack of insurance and personally mediated racism.
- Cost barriers that delay treatment, competing priorities, such as choosing more immediate needs, like working, over healthcare.

[Read the Full Report](#)

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