

HOUSTON, TX

NEW STUDY EXPOSES HOUSTON'S INEQUITY IN BREAST CANCER DEATHS

Higher Mortality Rate For Black Women Is Widespread

In 4 out of 5 Houston area counties, Black women are more likely than white women to die from breast cancer, a new study from Susan G. Komen revealed. Economic vulnerability, a large percentage of uninsured and underinsured, and a lower quality of healthcare due to the structural and personal racism were cited as causes.

The report also suggests limited access to, and low utilization of diagnostic procedures results in more instances of delayed diagnosis in the Black Community. Lack of transportation, fear and the high costs of procedures present substantial barriers and how the health system functions may significantly contribute to the underlying inequities in breast cancer outcomes in the Houston area.

“I’m seeing more women who’ve told me there’s so much cancer in their families, friends, and people they know. One lady told me, ‘If it’s there, I just don’t want to know. I can’t deal with knowing.’ So there’s a lot of fear.”

- Harris County Patient Navigator

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer than white women in three out of five counties; and they are more likely to die in four out of five.
- While access to free screening exists, Black women often delay screening due to restrictive work policies and fear of losing their jobs.
- Data suggests inequities in the Houston metropolitan area are explained by economic vulnerability, a large number of people without insurance and lower quality of care available in
- High costs of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment and poor or limited insurance as being their biggest barriers.

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