

2024 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Breast Cancer Disparities & Inequities



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE: (1982-2024)

Nearly **\$140 million** in more than **320** research grants and over **190** clinical trials focused on disparities & inequities



ABOUT DISPARITIES & INEQUITIES

Advances in breast cancer research have led to improvements in treatment and overall breast cancer outcomes. Unfortunately, these improvements have not been equitable among all populations. Some populations have a higher likelihood of being diagnosed with or dying from breast cancer compared to others. Inequities such as access to high-quality care, insurance coverage, poverty and racism have led to breast cancer disparities in many communities. Komen is dedicated to eliminating breast cancer disparities and inequities by investing in research focused on the causes of disparities, strategies to reduce them, and by training the next generation of scientists in disparities-focused research.

Learn more about Disparities & Inequities [here](#).

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH



- Medicaid expansion is associated with a decrease in racial and ethnic disparities in survival for people with metastatic breast cancer at the time of diagnosis.
- It is important to consider where breast cancer patients at high risk for treatment delays live, to prevent and reduce racial disparities associated with delayed care.
- A [global landscape analysis](#) of breast cancer staging showed that many more women in Sub-Saharan African countries have metastatic breast cancer when they are first diagnosed in contrast to women in other regions, such as North America, Europe and Oceania.

WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING

- [Using computers](#) to detect differences in how breast tissue looks on MRI images from Black women versus white women to better identify Black women who are at risk for breast cancer.
- [Investigating differences](#) in the location of DNA mutations and immune cells between the tumors in Black women and white women which may help determine which Black women are at risk for recurrence and metastasis.
- Investigating [the impact of social determinants of health](#) (where people live, learn, work, play and age) have on breast cancer disparities and the impact of stress on the immune system and breast cancer progression.

IN THE KOMEN RESEARCH PIPELINE:

NEARLY **600 NEW STRATEGIES** TO REDUCE BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES.

SPOTLIGHT: Training the next generation of scientists

Komen is committed to funding the next generation of scientists to conduct **disparities-focused research** and to **reduce disparities in the cancer workforce**. Komen has a dedicated grant mechanism — **Training Researchers to Eliminate Disparities (TREND)** — that has funded **36 grants** supporting nearly **170 students** pursuing careers focused on breast cancer disparities research.

Komen's new dedicated grant mechanism — **A Supplement to Promote Inclusion for Research Excellence (ASPIRE)** grant — provides established breast cancer scientists with supplemental funding to support research trainees from communities historically marginalized in research. Now in its second year, ASPIRE currently funds 27 research grants that support **27 trainees**. Komen hopes that ASPIRE will contribute to **eliminating disparities** in the future by **supporting a culturally competent workforce**.



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