

2023 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Breast Cancer Disparities & Inequities



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE: (1982-2023)

Nearly **\$140 million** in over **320** research grants and nearly **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. Inequities such as access to quality care, insurance coverage, poverty, and racism have led to breast cancer disparities in many communities, and some populations still have a higher likelihood of being diagnosed with or dying from breast cancer compared to others. 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'RE INVESTIGATING

- [Understanding how](#) psychosocial stress affects breast cancer biology and outcomes in Black women.
- Testing holistic approaches, including yoga-based meditation and diet counseling, to [improve outcomes](#) for Latina breast cancer survivors.
- Identifying differences in tumor cells that cause Black women with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) to respond differently to chemotherapy than other populations and using these differences to develop biomarkers for more effective personalized therapies.

IN THE RESEARCH PIPELINE:

MORE THAN **400 NEW STRATEGIES** TO REDUCE BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH



- A more personalized breast cancer prediction tool offers improved outcomes to Black women, including earlier diagnosis and reduced mortality.
- Culturally tailored interventions may help Black women with breast cancer overcome existing barriers to receiving estrogen-blocking therapies.
- Some early-stage breast cancers in Black women are less likely to respond to neoadjuvant chemotherapy than similar breast cancers in white women, which may contribute to poor outcomes observed within this population.

SPOTLIGHT: Training the next generation of scientists

Komen's new dedicated grant mechanism — **A Supplement to Promote Inclusion for Research Excellence (ASPIRE) grant** — is intended to enhance the **diversity of the breast cancer research workforce** by providing established breast cancer scientists with supplemental funding to **support research trainees from communities historically marginalized** in research. ASPIRE is providing support for **11 trainees** in its inaugural year with a second round of funding planned to continue the program.

Komen has dedicated a number of research grants to eliminating breast cancer inequities, including another dedicated grant mechanism, **Training Researchers to Eliminate Disparities (TREND)**, which supports **early career researchers** seeking careers focused on breast cancer disparities. Komen has funded: **36 TREND grants** that have supported nearly **170 students** pursuing careers focused on breast cancer disparities research.



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