



Breast cancer disparities for African-American women are startling. Breast cancer mortality is about 40 percent higher in the U.S. for African-American women than Caucasian women. And, African-American women are often diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer when treatment options are limited, costly and the prognosis is poor. Susan G. Komen® believes this is unacceptable and is working to change these outcomes.

See more here:

- [Know Your Girls](#)
- [Ending Breast Cancer Disparities to Achieve Health Equity for All](#)
- [Breast Cancer Statistics](#)
- [Race and Ethnicity](#)
- [Comparing Breast Cancer Screening Rates](#)
- [Komen Educational Materials for African-Americans](#)
- [Breast Cancer Education Toolkits – Black and African-American Communities](#)

### INCIDENCE (NEW CASES)

- About 33,840 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among black women in the U.S in 2019.<sup>1 p4</sup>
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among black women in the U.S.<sup>1 p12</sup>
- Overall breast cancer incidence among black women is lower than in white women in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> However, black women have a higher breast cancer incidence rate than white women before age 40.<sup>2 p4</sup>
- One in 9 black women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.<sup>1 p3</sup>
- The median age of diagnosis is 60 years old for black women, compared to 64 years for white women in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>  
*Note: The median is the middle value of a group of numbers, so about half of black women are diagnosed before age 60 and about half are diagnosed after age 60. Among white women, about half are diagnosed before age 64 and about half are diagnosed after age 64.*
- Aggressive tumor characteristics are more common in breast cancer diagnosed in black women than in other racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. <sup>1 p12</sup>
- Premenopausal black women appear to be at particular risk of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive type of breast cancer associated with shorter survival in the U.S.<sup>2 p5</sup>
- Black women are twice as likely as women of other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. to be diagnosed with TNBC. <sup>1 p12</sup>
- Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC), a rare but aggressive form of locally advanced breast cancer, is also more common in black women than white women in the U.S.<sup>1 p12</sup>

### MORTALITY (DEATHS)

- About 6,540 deaths from breast cancer are expected to occur among black women in the U.S. in 2019.<sup>1 p4</sup>
- Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among black women in the U.S., exceeded only by lung cancer.<sup>1 p4</sup> Black women have the highest breast cancer mortality of all other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>
- Breast cancer mortality is about 40 percent higher in African-American women than in white women in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

**Note:** The actual percentage often changes slightly year to year and while the most current statistic is 40.3 “about 40 percent...” is more evergreen and the preferred language/vocabulary of the 3CI (Community Collaboration for Collective Impact) program.

### SURVIVAL

- The overall 5-year relative survival rate for breast cancer diagnosed in 2009–2015 among black women was 83 percent, compared to 92 percent among white women; this difference can be attributed to a later stage at diagnosis, poorer stage-specific survival and higher rates of aggressive, triple negative breast cancer among black women in the U.S.<sup>1 p14</sup>

**Note:** Survival rates are based on patients diagnosed between 2009–2015 and followed through 2016.

- About 54 percent of all breast cancers among black women are diagnosed at a local stage, compared to 64 percent among white women in the U.S.<sup>1 p14</sup>
  - There are many possible reasons for this difference in survival including: differences in tumor biology and tumor genetics; prevalence of risk factors (including being overweight and obesity); barriers to quality health care access (including a lack of health insurance); health behaviors (including not completing treatment) and a later stage of breast cancer at diagnosis.<sup>1 p14</sup>

### SCREENING (MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE)

- In 2015, 69 percent of black women and 65 percent of white women (ages 40 and older) reported receiving a mammogram within the past 2 years in the U.S. However, studies have found that self-reported survey data overestimates screening prevalence, particularly for black women. <sup>1 p28</sup>

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**Note:** The terms African-American, black and white are used in different statements listed above. These are the terms used in the references that informed the statements.

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### WHAT WAS UPDATED - JULY 3, 2019

- The median age of diagnosis is **60** years old for black women, compared to **64** years for white women in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>  
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*Note: Survival rates are based on patients diagnosed between 2009-**2015** and followed through **2016**.*

### CITATIONS

<sup>1</sup> [Cancer Facts and Figures for African-Americans](#), 2019-2021, ACS

<sup>2</sup> [Breast Cancer Facts and Figures](#), 2017-2018, ACS

<sup>3</sup> [SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975](#), 2016, 2019