Sisters Network® Inc. is the only national African American breast cancer survivorship organization in the United States and a leading voice in the fight against breast cancer in the Black community.

Karen E. Jackson
Founder/CEO
Sisters Network® Inc.
Author, *In the Company of my Sisters, My Story, My Truth* (4-time Breast Cancer Survivor)

BLACK WOMEN & BREAST CANCER

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Breast Cancer is the most fatal health issue for African American Women

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), compared to white women, black women develop cancer at a lower rate. However, black women die at a substantially higher rate, 40% higher, to be exact.
- Black women under age 35 get breast cancer at two times the rate of white women and die from breast cancer three times as often as white women.
- A variety of studies suggest that genetics may play a part in the higher disparity among African American women. These genetic factors include ancestry and family lineage dating exceptionally far back in history.
- While the range of reasons African American women develop breast cancer at a much higher rate is continuously under review, experts have concluded that differences in lifestyle and reproductive factors related to overall health may be linked to one’s risk of breast cancer.
- Many components constitute breast cancer disparities as it relates to rates among African American women, such as “social determinants to genetics in tumor biology,” according to Dr. Vivian Bea, section chief of breast surgical oncology at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.
- As of January 2020, about 276,480 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, and about 42,170 women will eventually die from this disease.
- In 2019, Black women made up 12.5% of all new breast cancer cases and 15.5% of all breast cancer deaths.
- The overall 5-year relative survival rate for breast cancer diagnosed is 81% for black women versus 91% for white women.
- 54% of breast cancers in black women are diagnosed at a local stage, compared to 64% in white women.
- African American women have dense breasts. When you get a mammogram, go to a facility that only has 3D mammography.
- If you know that something doesn’t feel right or look right, and you don’t feel like your doctor is giving you the attention you deserve, find another doctor. Trust your gut and advocate for yourself.
- Monthly self breast exams can save your life! Check the breasts you love.

Sources:


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http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org/affiliatechapters.html