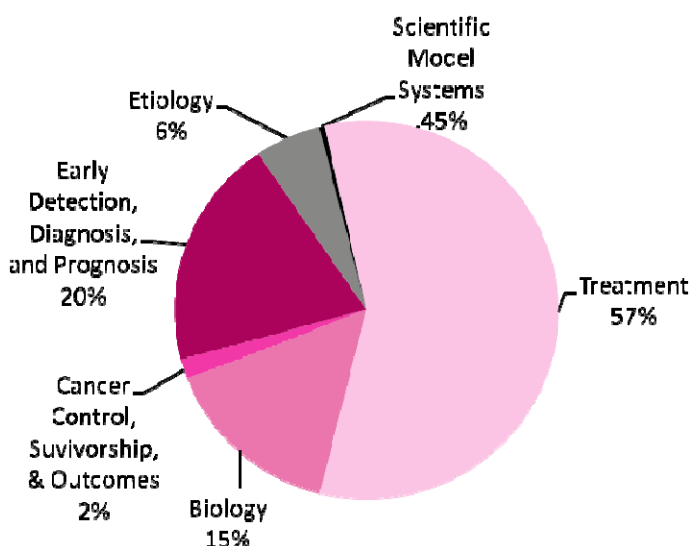


# Research Fast Facts: Triple Negative Breast Cancer

## Research Saves Lives

Approximately 15% of all breast cancers are diagnosed as triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) - an aggressive subtype. Other types of breast cancer have receptors on their cells - estrogen (ER), progesterone (PR), and human epidermal growth factor 2 (Her2)- which can be targeted with many current treatments. Because TNBC lacks all three receptors, it does not respond well to these therapies. With few treatment options and no targeted therapies specifically for TNBC, more research is needed to better understand how this cancer develops and can be treated more effectively.

## Investment In TNBC Research, 2006-2012



Susan G. Komen has invested more than **\$66 million** in over **90 research grants** focused on triple negative breast cancer since it was first identified as a distinct type of breast cancer in 2006.

## More Than Research

Komen also provides support through collaborative efforts with the [TNBC Foundation](#), funding for scientific conferences focused solely on TNBC, [education materials](#), and the collection of [Komen Tissue Bank](#) samples from women in Kenya, which will be used to better understand the genetic differences and health disparities of TNBC.

Read about [Nicole Vasquez's](#) experience as a young woman diagnosed with TNBC.

## What We're Investigating

Komen-funded researchers are:

- Identifying and developing new therapies for TNBC and testing them in clinical trials
- Developing strategies for preventing TNBC, including chemoprevention and lifestyle factors like diet and exercise
- Understanding why African Americans, young women, and women with a BRCA mutation appear to be at higher risk for TNBC
- Discovering biomarkers and signatures to help diagnose TNBC or predict risk, prognosis, or response to therapy

## What We've Learned

Komen-funded research has helped us to understand that:

- There are at least 6 different subtypes of TNBC, each with different abnormalities, which may be treated using drugs that are specific to these abnormalities
- A combination of a new drug that targets a "death receptor" in TNBC cells and standard chemotherapy may be more effective at killing TNBC than chemotherapy alone
- A blood test that measures the presence of a specific set of genes may be used to identify TNBC patients with BRCA mutations, resulting in earlier intervention and improved treatment strategies



The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® promise is to save lives and end breast cancer forever.