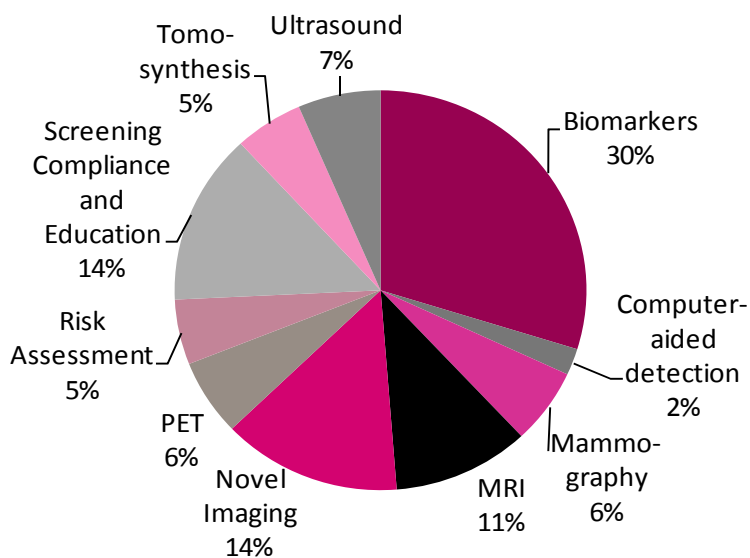


Early Detection Research Saves Lives

Finding breast cancer early, when it's easiest to treat, **can save lives**. Research estimates that regular screenings with mammography have resulted in **30% fewer deaths** from breast cancer. However, mammography is not perfect. It can sometimes miss tumors or identify tumors that are not cancerous, particularly in women with dense breasts or who are at high risk for developing breast cancer.

Komen is committed to finding better, more sensitive methods for detecting and identifying breast cancer earlier.

Total Investment In Early Detection



Susan G. Komen has invested more than **\$30 million** in **over 100 grants** to find better technologies and tests for breast cancer screening, as well as educational strategies to increase the number of women who participate in breast cancer screenings.

More Than Research

These research investments reflect only part of our commitment to early detection. Komen and its Affiliates also support community programs to improve access to mammography and other early detection services, as well as educational efforts and [information](#) to increase awareness of the importance of breast cancer screening.

What We're Investigating

Komen-funded researchers are:

- Developing new imaging technologies, including ultrasound, that provide better 3-dimensional images and are more effective and comfortable than mammography
- Identifying whether genetic differences (biomarkers) can be detected in tissue or blood and used to create screening tests for breast cancer
- Understanding how different risk factors such as breast density can affect the accuracy of different screening technologies
- Developing detection methods that combine imaging and biomarkers to better detect breast cancer in high risk women

What We've Learned

Komen-funded research has helped us to understand that:

- A technique called ultrasound tomography, which uses sound waves to create 3-D images, is more effective at detecting breast cancer than mammography, especially for women with dense breasts
- A simple blood test that looks for the presence of a unique set of proteins may soon be used to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages when it is most treatable
- MRI is more effective at detecting breast cancer in women at high risk for developing the disease, such as those with high genetic risk or who have received prior radiation therapy



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