Since the 1980s, there have been significant improvements in treatment and overall breast cancer care. Unfortunately, improvement has not been equal among all populations. Many still suffer inequities, or disparities, from breast cancer and its effects, including high death rates.

Disparities are health differences in breast cancer outcomes among specific population groups, which may include, but are not limited to those associated with race/ethnicity, religion, nationality, socioeconomic status, age, sexual orientation, geography or disability.

Komen is dedicated to reaching health equity. With support from the Fund II Foundation, Komen initiated the African American Health Equity Initiative, which aims to reduce African-American breast cancer disparities by 25% in 5 years, starting in the 10 metropolitan areas with the greatest breast cancer disparities.

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**Our Research Investment 1982—2019**

More than $117 million in over 280 research grants and more than 170 clinical trials focused on breast cancer inequities

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**What We’re Investigating**

- Identifying the genetic, social and environmental differences that contribute to disparities in breast cancer outcomes in African-American women
- Determining how patient navigation affects patient acceptance of recommended breast cancer treatment in minority populations
- Testing a health care delivery program to optimize care and improve outcomes for African-American and low-income women

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**Training Researchers to Eliminate Disparities**

Komen has dedicated numerous resources to eliminating breast cancer inequities, including support of early career researchers who are seeking careers focused on breast cancer disparities, through a dedicated grant mechanism - the Training Researchers to Eliminate Disparities (TREND) grant.

**Komen has funded:**

- 33 grants that have supported more than 120 students pursuing careers focused on breast cancer disparities research.

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Learn more about Komen Scholar Dr. Lisa Newman's work to reduce breast cancer inequities in sub-Saharan Africa in Komen's research blog. [http://sgk.mn/2i2DaJu](http://sgk.mn/2i2DaJu)