

Research Saves Lives

Factors inside and outside of the body can affect breast cancer risk and outcomes. Those outside the body are often called environmental factors. There is no one scientific definition for what is considered an environmental factor, and different scientists may use different categories when deciding whether a risk factor is environmental.

Environmental factors include many things found in nature that we eat, drink, touch or breathe, as well as man-made factors. They can include chemicals or pollutants, radiation, microorganisms (infections), or lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise or smoking. Even medications, such as birth control pills or

menopausal hormone therapy, can be considered environmental factors. Some environmental exposures are passive, such as sunlight (ultraviolet rays) and air pollution. Others are active, such as eating a healthy diet.

Identifying which environmental factors keep us healthy and which can increase the risk of breast cancer is an important part of understanding breast cancer risk and survival.



Learn more about environmental factors and breast cancer <http://sgk.mn/1Nm27mV>

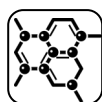
Our Research Investment

More than **\$24 million** in over **55 research grants** and **7 clinical trials** focused on Environmental Factors

What We're Investigating



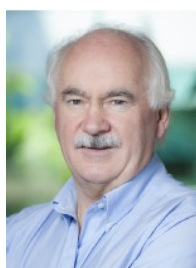
Determining whether traffic-related air pollution affects breast cancer risk and incidence



Testing whether chronic, high-level exposure to phthalate (a chemical found in many consumer products) can increase the risk of breast cancer



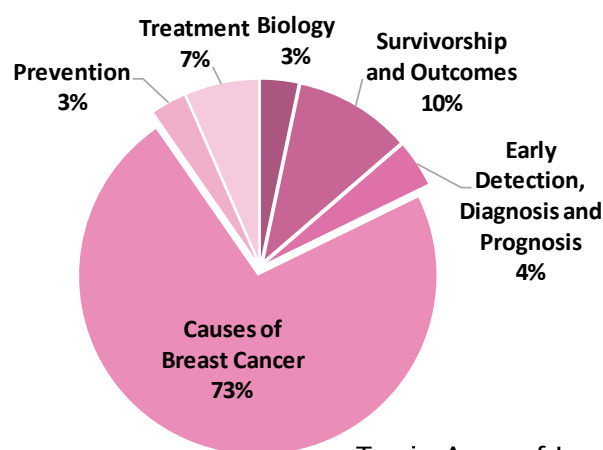
Determining how chronic exposure to chemicals in nail salon products affects breast density and breast cancer risk in nail salon workers



Read more about environmental factors that affect the risk of breast cancer recurrence from Komen grantee Dr. John Pierce, in our Science Buzz Series.

<http://sgk.mn/1cmGBUV>

Read how hormone exposures may affect breast cancer risk, from the Komen-funded [Two Sisters Study](#).



Topic Area of Investment

What We've Learned from Komen-funded research



Lifestyle factors such as poor diet, lack of exercise and smoking are associated with an increased risk of breast cancer recurrence.



How a woman's body responds to hormone exposures during the [different phases](#) of life may affect her risk of breast cancer.



Certain high-risk Human Papilloma Viruses (HPVs)—like those that cause cervical cancer—may also play a role in the development of some breast cancers.



Learn more about breast cancer



More Komen-funded Research Stories



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