Breast Cancer and Black Women

Black women continue to be 40% more likely to die of breast cancer despite having lower incidence of the cancer.

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First, the good news: Breast cancer death rates dropped by 43% from 1989 to 2020, and they're declining for every racial and ethnic group except American Indian and Alaska Native women, for whom the rates are stable, according to the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Statistics, 2022. However, Black women continue to be 40% more likely to die of the disease despite having lower incidence of the cancer. "There is an alarming persistent gap for Black women," noted Rebecca Siegel, MPH, the report's senior author. "This is not new, and it is not explained by more aggressive cancer. It is time for health systems to take a hard look at how they are caring differently for Black women."

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