American Cancer Society® VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

Black women have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. for most cancers.

Black women are 8% less likely to be diagnosed with cancer than White women, but 12% more likely to die if diagnosed.

Lung cancer remains the second leading cancer diagnosed and second leading cause of cancer death in Black women.

Black women under age 50 are twice as likely to die of breast cancer than White women.

American Cancer Society VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

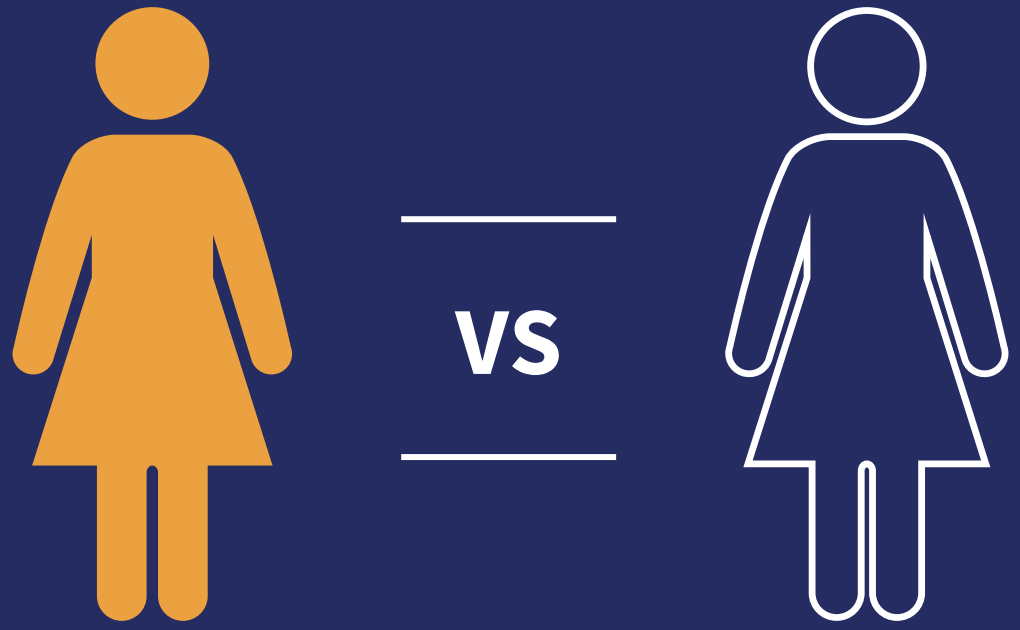
Previous American Cancer Society Population Studies

Over 2.5 million participants contributed to discoveries like linking:

- **Smoking to lung cancer**
- **Obesity to the risk of early death**
- **Red and processed meat to higher risk of colon cancer**

American Cancer Society VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

Overall Life Expectancy



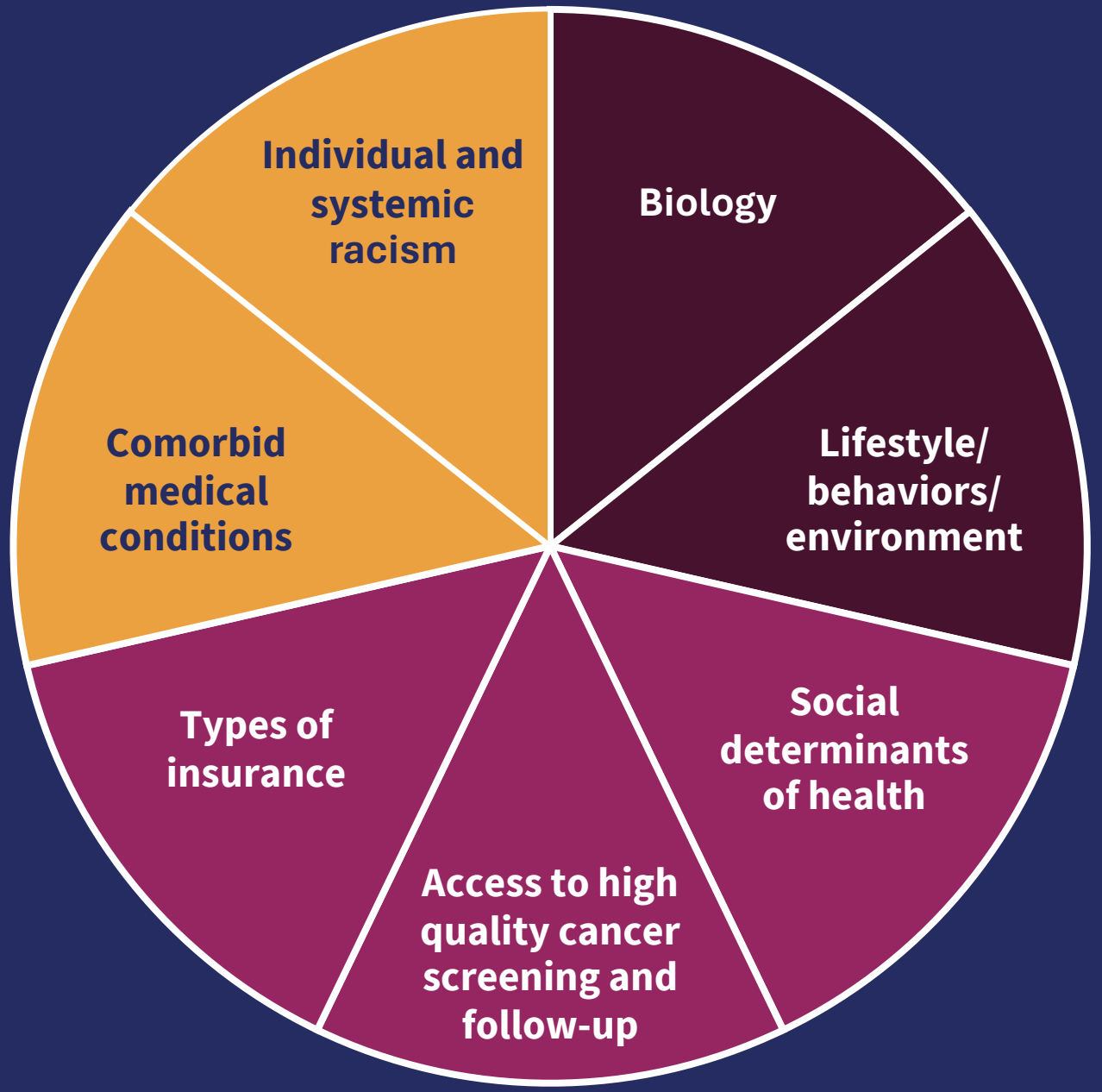
Black Women
77.9 years

White Women
81.0 years

Due to these chronic conditions…

- **Cancer**
- **Heart disease, stroke**
- **Influenza, pneumonia**
- **Diabetes, hypertension**
- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Kidney disease**
- **Maternal health**

American Cancer Society VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN



Understanding which combination of factors contributes to which disparities will facilitate our understanding of how to eliminate them.

American Cancer Society VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

Why Do U.S. Cancer Health Disparities Exist?

Complex and interrelated factors contribute to cancer health disparities in the United States. Adverse differences in many, if not all, of these factors are directly influenced by structural and systemic racism. The factors may include, but are not limited to, differences or inequalities in:

Environmental Factors

- Air and water quality
- Transportation
- Housing
- Community safety
- Access to healthy food sources and spaces for physical activity

Behavioral Factors

- Tobacco use
- Diet
- Excess body weight
- Physical inactivity
- Adherence to cancer screening and vaccination recommendations

Social Factors

- Education
- Income
- Employment
- Health literacy

Clinical Factors

- Access to health care
- Quality of health care

Cultural Factors

- Cultural beliefs
- Cultural health beliefs

Psychological Factors

- Stress
- Mental health

Biological and Genetic Factors

INDIVIDUAL AND STRUCTURAL RACISM

Adapted from: AACR, The State of Cancer Health Disparities 2020

American Cancer Society® VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

Enrolling Black women between the ages of 25 and 55 who have not been diagnosed with cancer.

GOAL: 100,000 Black women

Enrollment States

Non-Enrollment States

American Cancer Society® VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

Eligible participants:

- Must identify as Black
- be assigned female at birth or self-identify as women
- not have a history of cancer

  (except basal or squamous skin cancer)
- be between the ages of 25 and 55

American Cancer Society® VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

VOICES of Black Women Study

Questions will expand on standard demographic, behavioral, and lifestyle factors to explore...

- Mental health
- Education, income & generational wealth
- Quality of life
- Caregiving
- Stress
- Racism & discrimination
- Social support & social interactions

American Cancer Society®

VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

For more information about the VOICES of Black Women® study and how to participate, please visit **voices.cancer.org.**