

# Racial disparities in stage of breast cancer diagnosis

10 December 2020



"The ACA expanded access to affordable insurance coverage, making it possible for more [women](#) to undergo regular breast cancer screening. This study demonstrates the benefits that this can have for early breast cancer diagnosis and the ability to begin to mitigate some of the [racial disparities](#) in early detection," says Journal of Women's Health Editor-in-Chief Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA.

"Future research should identify those disadvantaged populations for whom disparities in healthcare remain pronounced despite the ACA. It should also explore the variables that contribute to healthcare disparities, but are not addressed by the ACA's insurance expansion, such as social determinants of health that impact healthcare access and outcomes," state Neal Spada, MD and coauthors from the University of Pittsburgh.

**More information:** Neal G. Spada et al, Changes in Disparities in Stage of Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Pennsylvania After the Affordable Care Act, *Journal of Women's Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8478](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2020.8478)

Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Minority women and women in general aged 50-64 in Pennsylvania showed an increased proportion of early-stage breast cancer diagnosis since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Under the ACA, more women are able to get early breast health screening. The study is published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Women's Health*.

For women aged 50-64, both non-Hispanic white women (86.54% pre-ACA, 88.09% post-ACA) and [minority women](#) (83.12% pre-ACA, 85.83% post-ACA) had a significantly increased proportion of early stage [breast](#) cancer diagnosis post-ACA.

APA citation: Racial disparities in stage of breast cancer diagnosis (2020, December 10) retrieved 27 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-12-racial-disparities-stage-breast-cancer.html>

*This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.*