

# Racial disparities in stage of breast cancer diagnosis

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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.

"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 ACAs insurance expansion, such as social determinants of health that impact healthcare access and outcomes," state Neal Spade, 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](#)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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