

CDC developed the following report in response to congressional direction from FY 2026 House appropriations report language (House Report 119-271):

Triple-Negative Breast Cancers —The committee recognizes findings that African American women have twice the odds of being diagnosed with Triple-Negative Breast Cancers (TNBCs). The Committee therefore directs CDC to publicly issue a report on current and planned future efforts to promote awareness of TNBC diagnosis and treatment, including any findings of best practices for the use of educational or related tools to increase the uptake of awareness and treatment no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Introduction

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive subtype representing approximately 15% of all breast cancer diagnoses in the United States. Because TNBC lacks estrogen, progesterone, and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) receptors, treatment options are more limited, contributing to poorer clinical outcomes. TNBC is characterized by rapid progression, higher recurrence rates, and lower survival. Current 5-year relative survival is approximately 91% for localized disease, 66% for regional disease, and 12% for distant metastatic disease.¹

TNBC disproportionately affects Black women, younger women, and individuals with BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations. Black women are approximately twice as likely to be diagnosed with TNBC compared with White women and experience higher breast cancer mortality rates overall.^{2 3} For younger women, diagnosis often coincides with critical life stages, disrupting employment, caregiving, and family planning. TNBC is associated with significant financial burden and mental health challenges.⁴

Without targeted approaches, TNBC will continue to negatively impact cancer outcomes among groups that are disproportionately affected by breast cancer. Improving awareness, access to evidence-based care, and survivorship support may reduce mortality and improve quality of life. To address these gaps, CDC has initiated activities through the Young Breast Cancer Survivorship Program (YBCSP) and the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

¹ National Cancer Institute. <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/breast-cancer-types/triple-negative>. Accessed 5/29/2026

² Prakash O, Hossain F, Danos D, Lassak A, Scribner R, Miele L. Racial Disparities in Triple Negative Breast Cancer: A Review of the Role of Biologic and Non-biologic Factors. *Front Public Health*. 2020 Dec 22;8:576964. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2020.576964. PMID: 33415093; PMCID: PMC7783321.

³ National Cancer Institute. <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/breast-cancer-types/triple-negative#what-is-the-survival-rate-and-prognosis-for-people-with-triple-negative-breast-cancer>. Accessed 9/23/26

⁴ Huang M, Haiderali A, Fox GE, Frederickson A, Cortes J, Fasching PA, O'Shaughnessy J. Economic and Humanistic Burden of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: A Systematic Literature Review. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2022 May;40(5):519-558. doi: 10.1007/s40273-021-01121-7. Epub 2022 Feb 3. PMID: 35112331; PMCID: PMC9095534.

(NCCCP), with planned expansion through supplemental funding beginning in September 2026. This report summarizes current efforts, outlines planned investments, and identifies opportunities to scale evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes for populations affected by TNBC.

Current Efforts to Address TNBC

CDC-supported programs are designed to achieve three primary outcomes: improve the identification of populations at highest risk for TNBC, increase access to survivorship and supportive services, and enhance awareness of TNBC among both providers and patients. These outcomes are advanced through strong partnerships, the use of data to target communities in need more precisely, and the implementation of evidence-informed interventions that expand reach and improve the quality of care and support services.

Young Breast Cancer Survivorship Program

CDC's Young Breast Cancer Survivorship Program (YBCSP) funds 11 organizations to address the unique needs of younger breast cancer survivors, including many diagnosed with TNBC, by strengthening survivorship care and reducing differences in care through targeted, data-informed strategies. Program recipients use surveillance data, administrative records, and needs assessments to identify high-risk and underserved populations, enabling more precise and effective delivery of interventions.

Recipients implement evidence-informed interventions such as patient navigation, peer support programs, provider education, survivorship care planning, and community outreach. Through partnerships with health care systems and community-based organizations, the program has expanded access to critical services, including genetic counseling and testing, psychosocial support, and culturally and linguistically appropriate educational resources.

Collectively, these efforts have improved care coordination, increased awareness of TNBC, and strengthened survivorship support, particularly among populations at elevated risk. Examples of CDC-funded YBCSP initiatives include:

- **FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered):** a national program providing TNBC-relevant genetic testing resources, peer navigation matched by cancer type and mutation status, and support for previvors through online groups and digital tools with a strong emphasis on hereditary risk and TNBC-linked mutations.
- **Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC):** a national program offering a dedicated TNBC information hub, a helpline connecting individuals with TNBC survivors and educational and genetic testing resources; includes targeted programming such as the "Knowledge Is Power: The Black Breast Cancer Experience" series.
- **Sharsheret:** a national program delivering culturally specific support, including genetic education on BRCA mutations associated with TNBC risk, peer-to-peer support, and webinars; primarily serves Jewish women and families with some TNBC-relevant content.

Moving forward, the YBCSP will continue to advance TNBC-focused efforts through a supplemental investment under the current 5-year cooperative agreement that began in FY 2024.

Through this effort, selected recipients will implement targeted strategies to include the development and implementation of tailored campaigns to increase awareness of TNBC risk, diagnosis, treatment options, survivorship, and available psychosocial support resources. In addition, recipients will develop and disseminate toolkits to equip community health workers and patient navigators with resources to support individuals affected by TNBC. Programs will also strengthen provider capacity by expanding access to provider-focused education aimed at improving patient-provider communication, particularly around treatment decision-making, clinical trial participation, and palliative care.

National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

The CDC-funded National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) convenes multi-sector coalitions to implement evidence-informed cancer control plans that address the cancer burden within their communities. These efforts focus on risk reduction, early detection, and support for survivors, caregivers, and families. Within this framework, NCCCP efforts increasingly address breast cancer subtypes, including TNBC, particularly in relation to survivorship, genetic risk, and access to care.

Current activities of NCCCP include the development of educational materials on breast cancer subtypes and genetic risk, collaboration with national organizations to expand reach and disseminate culturally relevant messaging, promotion of survivorship resources such as peer support programs and helplines, and support for provider education and training to improve care for populations at elevated risk.

Future Efforts to Address TNBC

In addition to sustaining and expanding ongoing efforts through the YBCSP and NCCCP, depending on the availability of resources, CDC has identified a potential new project in FY2027 to increase awareness of TNBC and strengthen psychosocial support for individuals affected by TNBC. This initiative is designed to achieve measurable improvements in awareness, access to services, and survivorship outcomes, particularly among populations at elevated risk.

If funded, the proposed project will follow a phased, evidence-building approach. It will begin with a comprehensive landscape analysis to assess existing TNBC-related programs, identify gaps in services (especially in psychosocial support), and evaluate the capacity of organizations serving high-risk populations. The findings from this phase will inform the development of targeted demonstration projects that integrate education and awareness efforts into CDC communication campaigns such as Bring Your Brave, providing tailored messaging for both patients and providers, and stronger linkages to support services.

These pilot demonstration projects will be implemented in real-world settings to identify the most effective strategies for increasing awareness and improving access to comprehensive support services. Outcomes from these pilots will be rigorously evaluated to determine their impact on knowledge, care engagement, and survivorship support. Findings will then be used to develop a technical package that provides practical, evidence-based guidance for broader implementation.

Ultimately, this initiative is intended to produce scalable models that improve survivorship outcomes and reduce deaths among women diagnosed with TNBC. By aligning CDC programs, leveraging community-based organizations as trusted messengers, and addressing both clinical and non-clinical needs, this effort will position CDC to disseminate effective interventions nationwide and inform future public health strategies for other aggressive or rare cancers.

Conclusion

In summary, CDC's programs are uniquely positioned to improve outcomes for individuals affected by TNBC by leveraging existing national and community-based partnerships. These programs expand awareness of TNBC risk, diagnosis, and treatment; strengthen provider and patient engagement; and increase access to evidence-based survivorship supports. CDC is helping to improve quality of life and health outcomes for individuals affected by TNBC by expanding access to timely, high-quality care, supportive services, and evidence-based interventions across the cancer continuum.