



**Black Women's Health Imperative**  
*because*  
**Black Women Matter**  
***Improving Black Women's Health***

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***Director of Programs & Training***



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# Do Black Women Matter?



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# We Matter



Black women are inherently resilient and powerful. Their health matters and is critically important to the wellness of the country.

For the past 30 years, the Imperative has worked toward achieving health equity for all women, especially our nation's 20 million Black women and girls,



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# We Define Health Equity

“The state of health that exists when social, political and economic barriers are removed so that every Black woman and girl can choose those behaviors and services which promote her optimum health—physically, emotionally and financially.”



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# Numbers Don't Lie....but Don't Tell Whole Story

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:** Black women make up  
66% of all Blacks completing a Bachelor's Degree  
71% of those completing a Master's degree  
65% of those completing a Doctorate's Degree

**EMPLOYMENT:** Black women lead all women in labor force participation rates. Even as mothers of small children, Black women are overwhelmingly likely to work.

**BUSINESS START-UPS:** Black women represent the fastest growing market segment for start-up businesses

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** Black women's life expectancy outpaces that of both Black men and White men (78 vs. 72 and 76.5 respectively)

**BREAST CANCER:** Breast cancer incidence rates are overall lower for Black women – not so for < 45

Black women are 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women

**HYPERTENSION:** 46% of African American women 20 years of age and older have hypertension

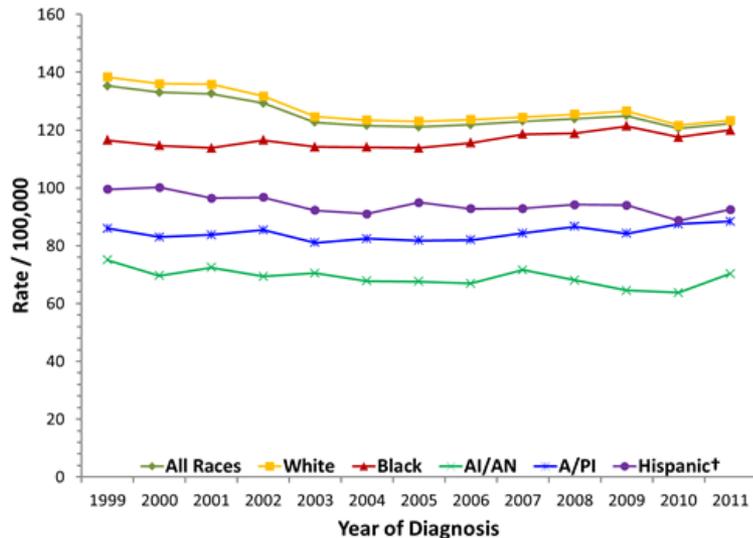
**OBESITY:** 4 out of 5 Black women are overweight or obese; 16% have extreme obesity.



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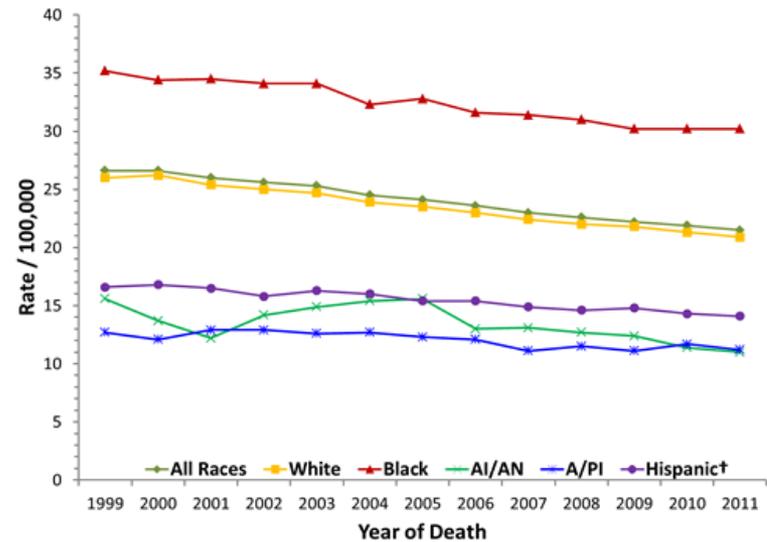
# Breast Cancer- Incidence and Mortality

**Female Breast Cancer Incidence Rates\* by Race and Ethnicity, U.S., 1999–2011**



**Incidence source:** Combined data from the National Program of Cancer Registries as submitted to CDC and from the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results program as submitted to the National Cancer Institute in November 2013.

**Female Breast Cancer Death Rates\* by Race and Ethnicity, U.S., 1999–2011**



**Mortality source:** U.S. Mortality Files, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

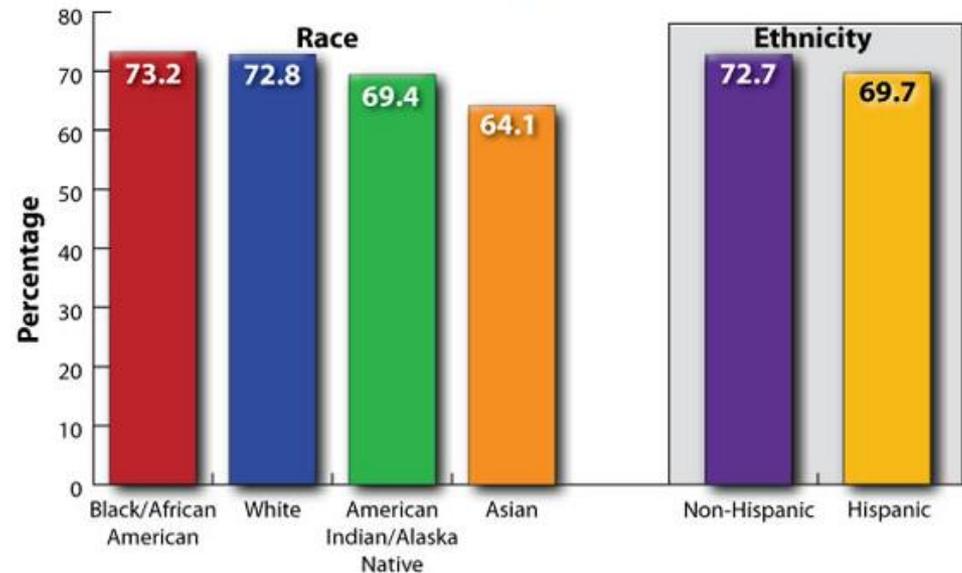


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# Breast Cancer - Mammography



Women aged 50–74 years who reported having a mammogram within the past 2 years, by race and ethnicity, in 2010



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# Our Breast Cancer Priorities



**ADVOCATING FOR POLICY  
CHANGES**



**STRUCTURAL CHANGE**



**INDIVIDUAL CHANGE**



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# Moving Black Women's Health Forward

## My Sister's Keeper (MSK)

Our sexual health & reproductive justice initiative educates young Black women about the importance of having control over their contraception & reproductive decisions and mobilizes them to advocate for their rights.



## Access. Coverage. Action. (ACA)

Our health insurance literacy initiative helps women understand their new health insurance and how they can use it to get and stay healthy.



## Grab Your Girls & Go (GYGO)

Our wellness initiative encourages Black women, and women in their lives, to increase their understanding of wellness and participate in activities to achieve their optimal wellness.



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# IndexUS: The Black Women's Health Index

**There lacks a comparative index of key health outcomes, behaviors and risk factors specific to Black women by geography.**

Using data from the groundbreaking Black Women's Health Study—comprising 59,000 Black women—the Imperative will release a Black Women's Health Index in 2015.

The Index will be used to elevate the discussion of Black women's health and wellness in the U.S., to frame our understanding of their health as it relates to the economy and geography of the U.S. and provide a roadmap for achieving health equity.



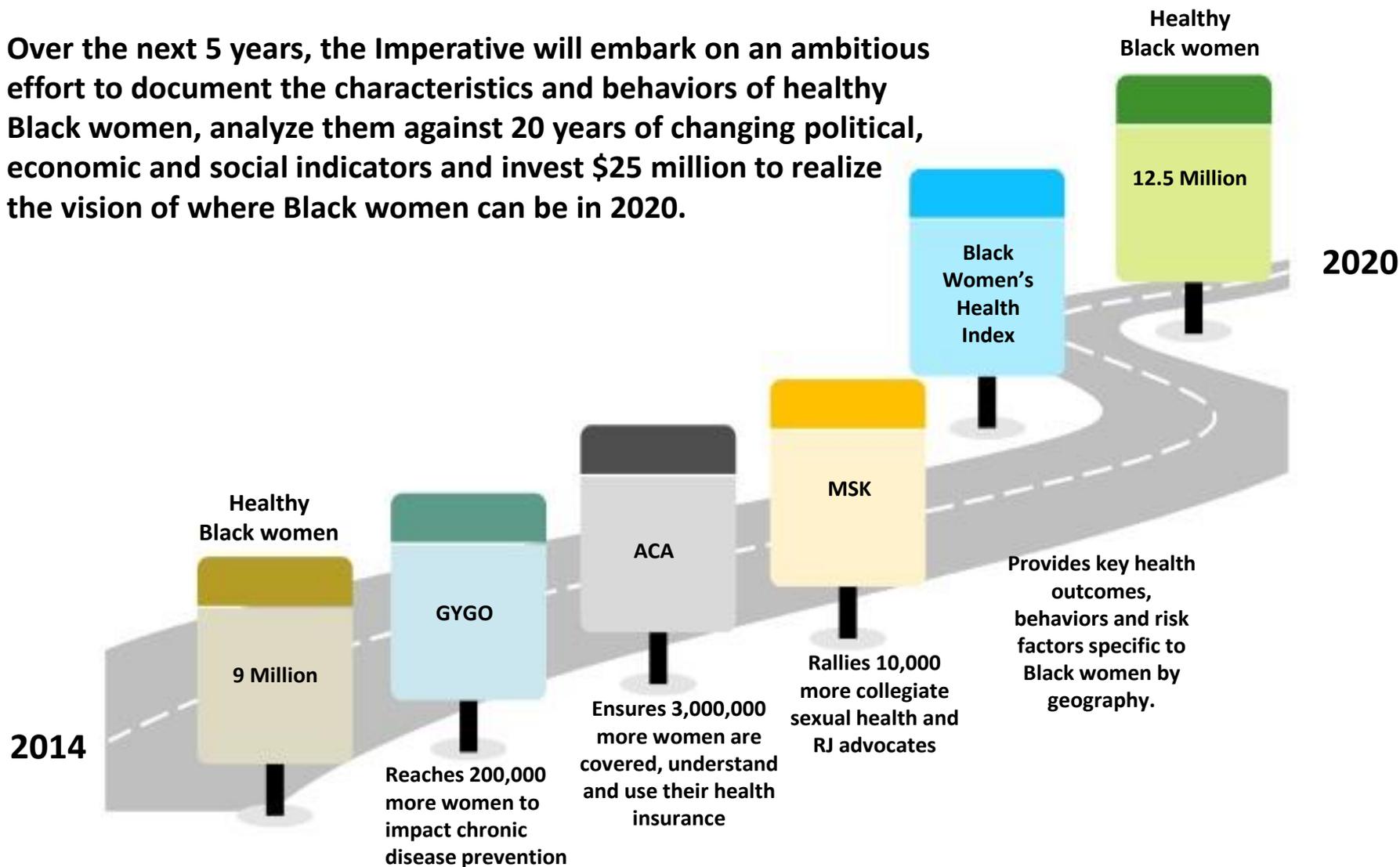
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# 2020: The New State Of Black Women

Over the next 5 years, the Imperative will embark on an ambitious effort to document the characteristics and behaviors of healthy Black women, analyze them against 20 years of changing political, economic and social indicators and invest \$25 million to realize the vision of where Black women can be in 2020.





# *Thank you*

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