

# Barriers to Cancer Treatment for Black Women in Newport News and Hampton, VA

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## Introduction

This project sought to identify and highlight the disparities and barriers to accessing breast cancer treatment in Newport News and Hampton, VA. While breast cancer deaths have decreased by 43% in the last 30 years due to advances in technology and increased awareness, early detection, and treatment, there is still a mortality gap between Black and white women (Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 2022). Specifically, a report between 2000 and 2010 indicated that breast cancer mortality increased from 30.3% to 41.8% among Black women (Yedjou et al., 2019).

## Community Partnership

- Riverside Cancer Center
- Gather data regarding women's perceptions of accessing breast cancer treatment and listening to their personal experiences surrounding diagnosis and treatment
- Interviewed Oncology Nurse Navigators to explore their perceptions of access to breast cancer treatment in Newport News, VA

## Participants & Methods

### Participants

- Women in Newport News or Hampton, VA who have experienced breast cancer
- Oncology Nurse Navigators in Newport News or Hampton, VA who work alongside women with breast cancer

### Procedure

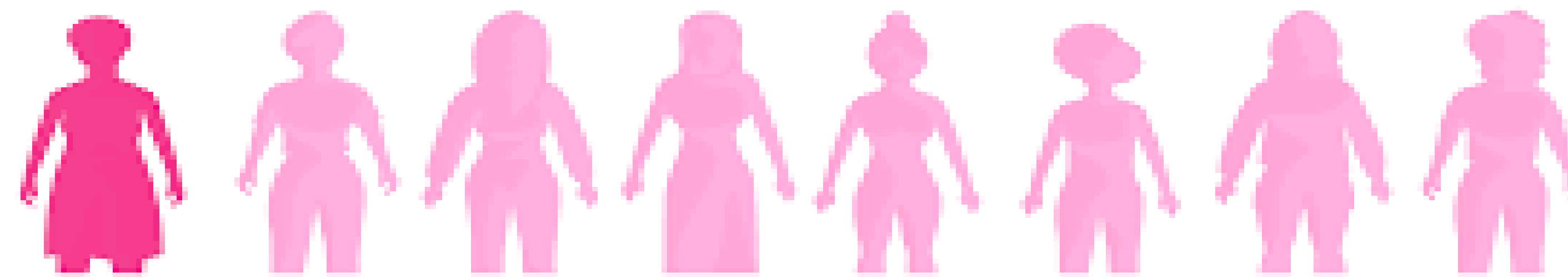
- Individual qualitative interviews of breast cancer survivors and oncology nurse navigators from Riverside and Sentara hospital systems

### Geospatial Analysis (ArcGIS)

- ArcGIS Online risk factor analysis
- CDC Data relating to breast cancer volume in Newport News and Hampton, VA
- Comparison of individual counties and tracts within Newport News and Hampton, VA
- Analysis of locations of mammography centers

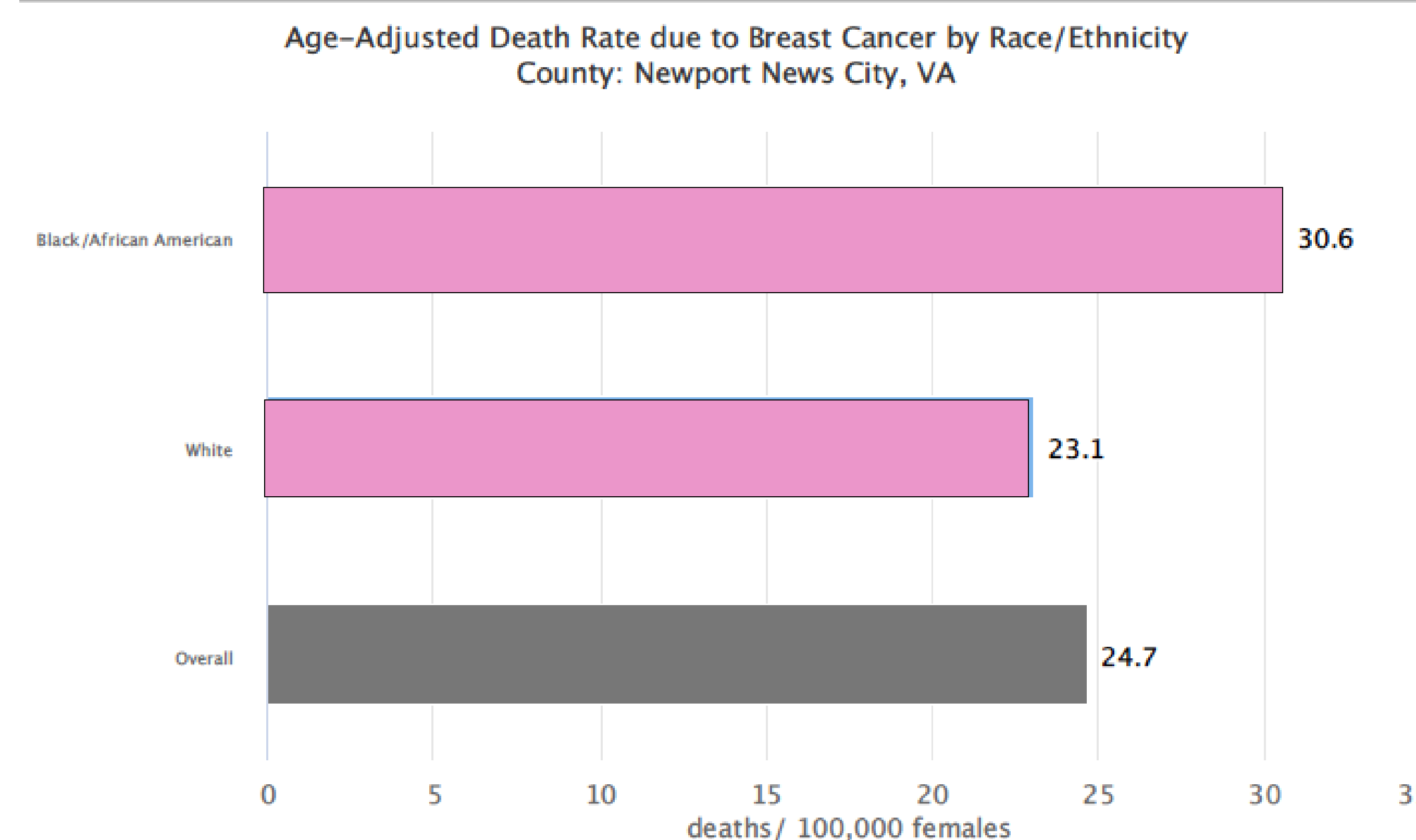
## Project Goals

1. Review existing literature regarding access to breast cancer treatment for Black women in Virginia
2. Speak with members of the Newport News and Hampton Roads community about their experience accessing breast cancer treatment
3. Utilize geospatial analysis to analyze risk factors for the development of breast cancer in Newport News and Hampton, VA
4. Identify possible interventions to mitigate the disparities in accessing care for Black women in Newport News and Hampton, VA



**1 IN 8 WOMEN**  
in the united states will develop  
breast cancer in her lifetime

**"African American women are 42% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women and are more likely to be diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive form of the disease without targeted therapies" (Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, 2022).**



## Project Significance

- Addressing gaps through speaking to community members
- Use of ArcGIS technology
- Identifying risk factors
- Raise awareness of disparities
- Proposed interventions

## Results & Discussion

- Socioeconomic status and lack of insurance is a large barrier to accessing breast cancer treatment in Newport News and Hampton, VA
- Medical mistrust and fear of prognosis continues to adversely impact members of the Black community when seeking treatment
- Based on data from the CDC, individuals most at risk for breast cancer reside in South Newport News
- There is a lack of mammography centers in South Newport News
- South Newport News was found to experience the most risk factors for developing breast cancer (i.e., smoking, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure)
- Additional barriers that were commonly mentioned: lack of insurance, transportation, childcare, and social support

## Future Steps & Interventions

- Raise awareness of the Every Woman's Life program
- Re-establish the Cancer Coalition
- Policy advocacy for bills similar to HB 1815
- Volunteer programs to assist women with breast cancer in traveling to their appointments, home care, and other activities of daily living

## References

Breast Cancer Research Foundation. (2022, October 5). "Black women and breast cancer": Why disparities persist and how to end them. <https://www.bcrf.org/blog/black-women-and-breast-cancer-why-disparities-persist-and-how-end-them/>

Yedjou, C. G., Sims, J. N., Miele, L., Noubissi, F., Lowe, L., Fonseca, D. D., Alo, R. A., Payton, M., & Tchounwou, P. B. (2019). Health and racial disparity in breast cancer. *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, 115(2), 31-49. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-20301-6\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-20301-6_3)