

## Exploring the Outlook on Genetic Testing Among Black Donors of Healthy Breast Tissue

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**Background:** While direct-to-consumer DNA testing has increased public awareness of genetic testing, historical injustices and persistent barriers—such as cost and limited access to education—continue to influence trust and participation, particularly in marginalized communities. The Komen Tissue Bank (KTB), originally created to collect healthy breast tissue for research, has evolved into a longitudinal study with annual follow-ups. In collaboration with the National Cancer Institute, the KTB now includes genetic testing and is re-consenting participants to assess interest in receiving potentially actionable genetic results. This health communication study applied the Integrated Behavioral Model (IBM) to explore how norms, attitudes, and personal agency influence Black women’s understanding of and engagement with genetic testing following their participation in the KTB.

**Methods:** Thirty-three women who self-identified as Black and previously donated healthy breast tissue to the KTB were recruited via email to complete an online survey administered through Qualtrics. An initial 75 emails were sent, followed by up to 50 additional emails to reach a minimum target sample of 30.

**Results:** Black women expressed clear evidence of the constructs of the legacy norm (altruism, personal sacrifice, care for others, and awareness of the future) when discussing their outlook towards genetic testing and spoke of overcoming mistrust to benefit their families and communities in the future. They also described positive instrumental attitude and evidence of perceived control as drivers of their desire to be educated on their health and empowered to make informed decisions on their healthcare.

**Conclusions:** Findings highlight the influence of culturally rooted values in motivating engagement with genetic testing among Black women. This study is part of a longitudinal project where next steps include analyzing data from Latina and Asian participants to identify their norms and attitudes toward genetic testing and explore cross-group similarities and differences among these minoritized population members.