



# VOICES OF BLACK WOMEN

# 2025 eNewsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the **VOICES of Black Women** annual e-newsletter. As participants in VOICES, you are vital partners in every aspect of the study and every discovery. That's why we want to keep you informed about important updates and what to expect as we continue working to reach our goal of engaging 100,000 Black women in this collective movement.

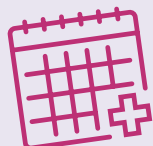
## Why It Matters

"It is important for us to be involved in research, especially research designed specifically for us that will help our community move forward and experience improved health. We need to play a part in reducing/eliminating health disparities."

**- VOICES Participant**

The VOICES of Black Women is a landmark step toward health equity, grounded in the lived experiences of Black women, like you. Together, our participants and study team are working to improve the health of future generations of Black women.

**Thank YOU for sharing your VOICE!**



## Mark your Calendar!

**September 22, 2025, 12 P.M. ET:** Our first VOICES Participant Webinar!

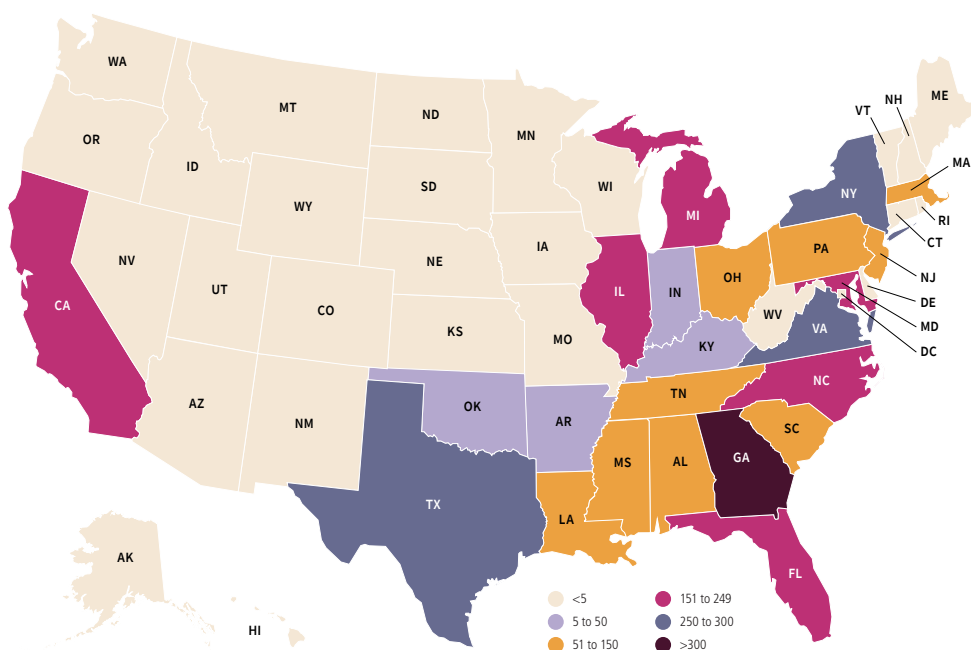
**October 2025:** New survey available on Participant Portal

## Study Enrollment

VOICES enrollment began in May 2024.

- You are among the more than 4,000 women who are already enrolled!
- To maximize the study's potential of better understanding how cancer impacts Black women and find ways to improve health outcomes, **we need more women to [sign up](#)**.
- Many of you have shared that you heard about the study and decided to join because a friend or family member asked. Now we are asking you to help us add to our community **by [sharing the study](#) with your family and friends who are eligible**.

## Number of VOICES enrollees per state



## Have you submitted your VOICES survey?

If you recently joined the VOICES study and signed the consent form, you must also complete the Life and Health history survey to be **fully enrolled** in the study. This comprehensive survey provides our researchers with extremely valuable information about your medical history and lifestyle. The purpose of the VOICES study is to better understand cancer and other health conditions among Black women, and these data are captured through the questions included in your surveys.

Please remember that the value and accuracy of the study depend on high response rates to the surveys.

Your Life and Health history survey can be found in your [participant portal](#) along with all other study-related surveys. Please log in to your portal to complete any needed surveys and/or confirm that you have no open tasks. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort you devote to this study. If you need assistance or have any questions, please email us at [thevoices@cancer.org](mailto:thevoices@cancer.org).



VOICES co-principal investigators  
Dr. Alpa Patel (left) and Dr. Lauren  
McCullough (right)

## VOICES Spotlight

As co-principal investigators, along with our colleagues, we recently published the [VOICES concept paper](#), where we share why VOICES is such an important and impactful study.

### Community Highlights

- ACS is partnering with service organizations, HBCUs, Black women researchers, faith-based partners and more to reach communities nationwide.
- We are also partnering with sports organizations such as the WNBA and media partners like the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) to support recruitment!
- Over 500 volunteer ambassadors have been trained to promote the VOICES study, build trust, and provide ongoing community feedback.

## New VOICES Substudy

In addition to completing surveys about your life and health history, VOICES participants will be periodically invited to sign up for substudies to collect additional information or a biospecimen. The **optional VOICES Blood Substudy**, which involves providing a small sample of blood is **now open** and participants are invited approximately 3 months after completion of the baseline Life and Health History survey.

Over 550 VOICES participants have opted in to this substudy. Thank you to everyone who has

already participated in this important research. To learn more about the **optional** VOICES Blood Substudy, please visit [here](#).

*Please note that while you have the option to provide a biospecimen for the study, VOICES of Black Women is **not** a clinical trial or experiment. Researchers will not ask participants to take pills or medication, change their lifestyle, or receive treatments of any kind. All VOICES substudies are optional, and you will **still be enrolled** in VOICES if you decline participation in a substudy.*

## VOICES Data Privacy and Security

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the largest nonprofit funder of cancer research outside of the US federal government, and solely funds the creation and ongoing maintenance of our population studies.

- VOICES of Black Women is funded by ACS and run by our Population Science department.
- We prioritize data **security and privacy** to ensure the long-term success of our study and to maintain the privacy of our participants.

- The Emory University Institutional Review Board oversees and monitors all ACS study activities.
- Please review our [FAQs](#) or contact us at [thevoices@cancer.org](mailto:thevoices@cancer.org) for additional information or with questions about data protection.



Thank you for sharing your **VOICE to improve the health of Black Women for generations to come!**

For any questions related to **VOICES**, including changes to your contact information, please email us at [thevoices@cancer.org](mailto:thevoices@cancer.org) or call us at **1-800-494-4113**. We are available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

For the latest cancer information, please visit [cancer.org](https://cancer.org) or call us at 1-800-227-2345.



[voices.cancer.org](https://voices.cancer.org)

