

STATE OF SURVIVORSHIP

SURVEY: 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 State of Survivorship Survey provides us an invaluable opportunity to delve into the cancer patient and survivor journey from a range of perspectives and to better understand how the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) can support our mission to advocate for quality care for all.

The research, conducted in partnership with Edge Research in the spring of 2021, helps NCCS build on and track findings from the previous year to better understand the differences in patient and survivor attitudes, experiences, and needs. Survey respondents represent a wide range of stages of diagnosis, demographics, socioeconomic levels, and available support systems, using quotas to make sure the sample was representative of cancer patients nationally by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and region (based on data from the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute). All data presented are from the national sample (n=1104) unless otherwise noted.

The 2021 State of Survivorship Survey demonstrates that when patients receive coordinated and quality care from their health care team, have excellent support, and have financial resources or assistance to alleviate worry about medical costs, they are more likely to have positive experiences and outcomes.

NCCS represents more than 17 million Americans who share the survivorship experience—living with, through, and beyond a cancer diagnosis. Our 2021 State of Cancer Survivorship shows us where there are gaps in care and support, resulting in unequal outcomes for cancer survivors. Our work has never been more urgent.



NATIONAL COALITION
FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

The Survey Data Show Consistent Findings in Several Key Areas



Disparities in Quality of Care

Significant disparities exist in the equity of and access to quality cancer care, with a disproportionate effect among the lower income, Hispanic/Latino, female, and young adult (ages 18-39) populations. Metastatic/Stage IV patients often have different priorities in care, particularly when it comes to quality of life.



Costs of Cancer Care

The physical, emotional, and financial costs of cancer are shared by all cancer survivors, but younger, Hispanic/Latino, and female patients disproportionately report these effects.



Support Systems are Key

Having a support system in place to help you throughout the journey is the top piece of advice from patients. While half of respondents say their support was excellent, younger, low-income, female, and metastatic patients report having less support.



Treatment During COVID-19

Most say the COVID-19 pandemic did not have a big effect on their treatment and 40% were able to have telehealth appointments with their care providers. Most still prefer in-person appointments to telehealth.



Meaning of Survivorship

The term "survivor" remains highly relevant with 85% of respondents saying they consider themselves a survivor. The comfort level of referring to oneself as a survivor increases over time. For those in treatment, 63% consider themselves a survivor while 93% of those 10-plus years past treatment say the same.



NCCS-Connected

NCCS-connected respondents had higher expectations in their assessments of quality care, were more likely to feel empowered to be active in their care, and were better able to find a range of support systems.