

SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

2025 Study Findings

CANCER
NATION



Research Objectives and Questions

Build on previous studies, exploring patient experiences, attitudes, and needs.

New This Year

- Chronic conditions and their impact on cancer treatment
- Confidence moving into post treatment care
- Deeper dive on Survivorship Care Plans
- Medicare Prescription Payment Plan
- Comfort with the implementation of AI in cancer care
- More questions on emotional and mental health



Continue to delve into the cancer patient and survivor journey, to better understand how Cancer Nation can support its mission to advocate for quality cancer care for all

Methodology

Nationwide Survey of Adult Cancer Patients and Survivors

- Nationwide sample of n=1305, fielded August 27 – September 22, 2025
- Quotas set to make sure the sample was representative by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and region (using ACS and NCI data)
- Surveys were recruited through an online non-probability sample with quotas set to ensure demographically representative audiences, following AAPOR best practices

Nationwide Survey of “Cancer Nation Connected” Patients and Survivors

- Nationwide sample of n=703, fielded August 27 – September 29, 2025
- Emailed survey invitations and reminders to all Cancer Nation email contacts
- Survey link also posted to website, social media pages, and promoted via partners and influencers
 - Email list n=376
 - Website n=207
 - Social media n=82
 - Partners/Influencer n=38

Blue/red =
statistically
higher/lower
by audience

▲ ▼ = change from
2024 survey

*Full text of survey
questions is in the
notes section of
slides*

National Patients



Gender

49% Male	26% Male
51% Female	74% Female



Age

8% Age 18-39	24% Age 18-39
43% Age 40-64	47% Age 40-64
48% Age 65+	27% Age 65+

Education

18% Less than college	7% Less than college
35% Some college/ 2-year degree	24% Some college/ 2-year degree
23% Bachelor's degree	28% Bachelor's degree
24% Postgraduate degree	40% Postgraduate degree

Income

15% Less than \$25k	9% Less than \$25k
20% \$25k-\$50k	10% \$25k-\$50k
19% \$50k-\$75k	20% \$50k-\$75k
15% \$75k-\$100k	13% \$75k-\$100k
30% More than \$100k	38% More than \$100k

Cancer Nation Connected Patients

National Patients



Insurance

30% Medicare
23% Medicare Advantage
13% Medicaid
31% Private/employer
6% Private/spouse or parents

24% Medicare
8% Medicare Advantage
6% Medicaid
45% Private/employer
17% Private/spouse or parents



Race/Ethnicity

78% White
9% AA/Black
9% Hispanic
5% Other

75% White
15% AA/Black
6% Hispanic
7% Other

Parents During Treatment

35% Yes **43%** Yes

Region

19% Northeast
21% Midwest
39% South
21% West

20% Northeast
16% Midwest
40% South
23% West

LGBTQ+

5% Yes **9%** Yes

Cancer
Nation
Connected
Patients

SECTION 1

TREATMENT DECISION-MAKING

Treatment Decisions

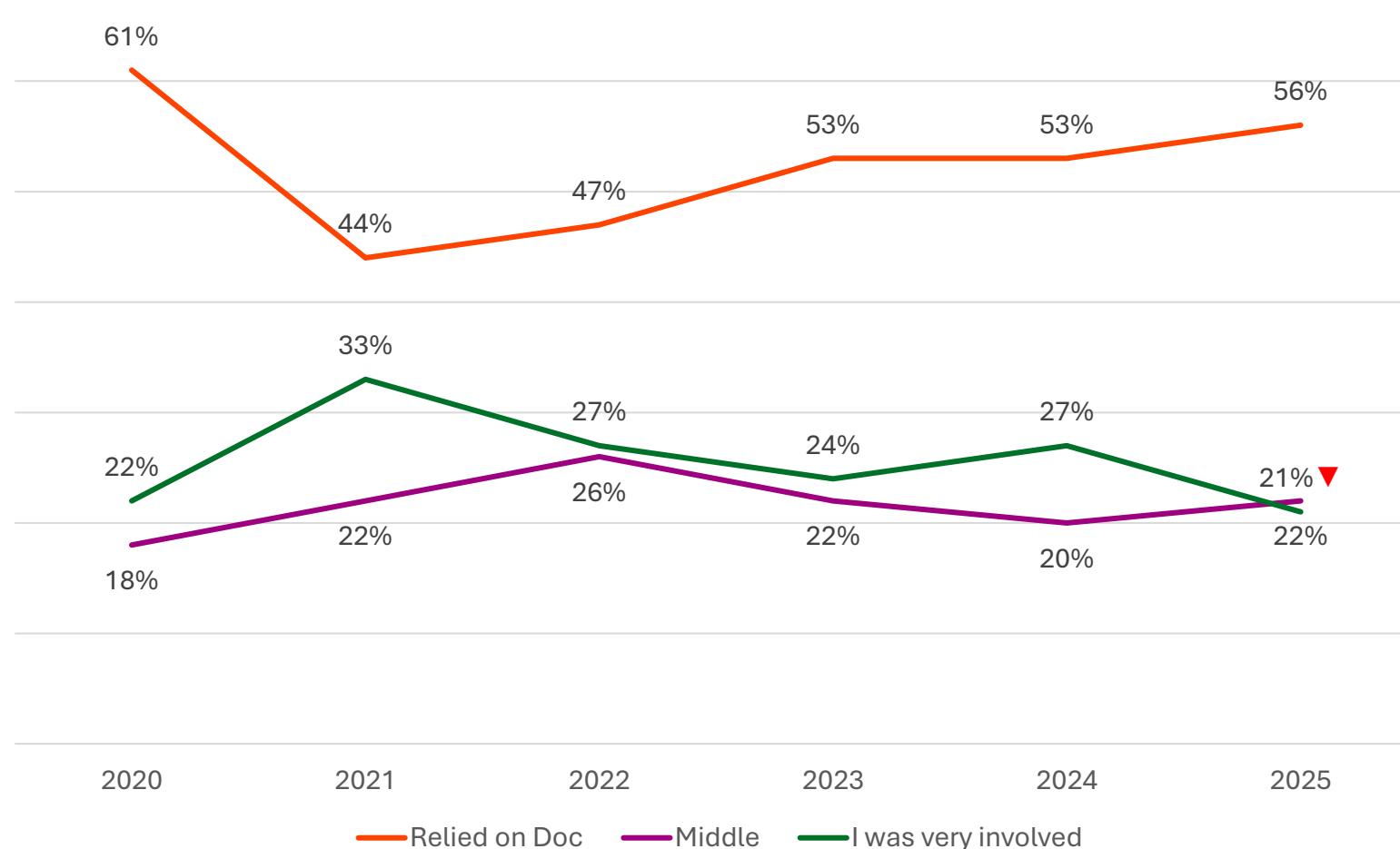
“Doctor knows best” mindset continues to trend back to pre-pandemic levels.

I rely/relied on **the doctor** to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.

I **am/was** very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options.

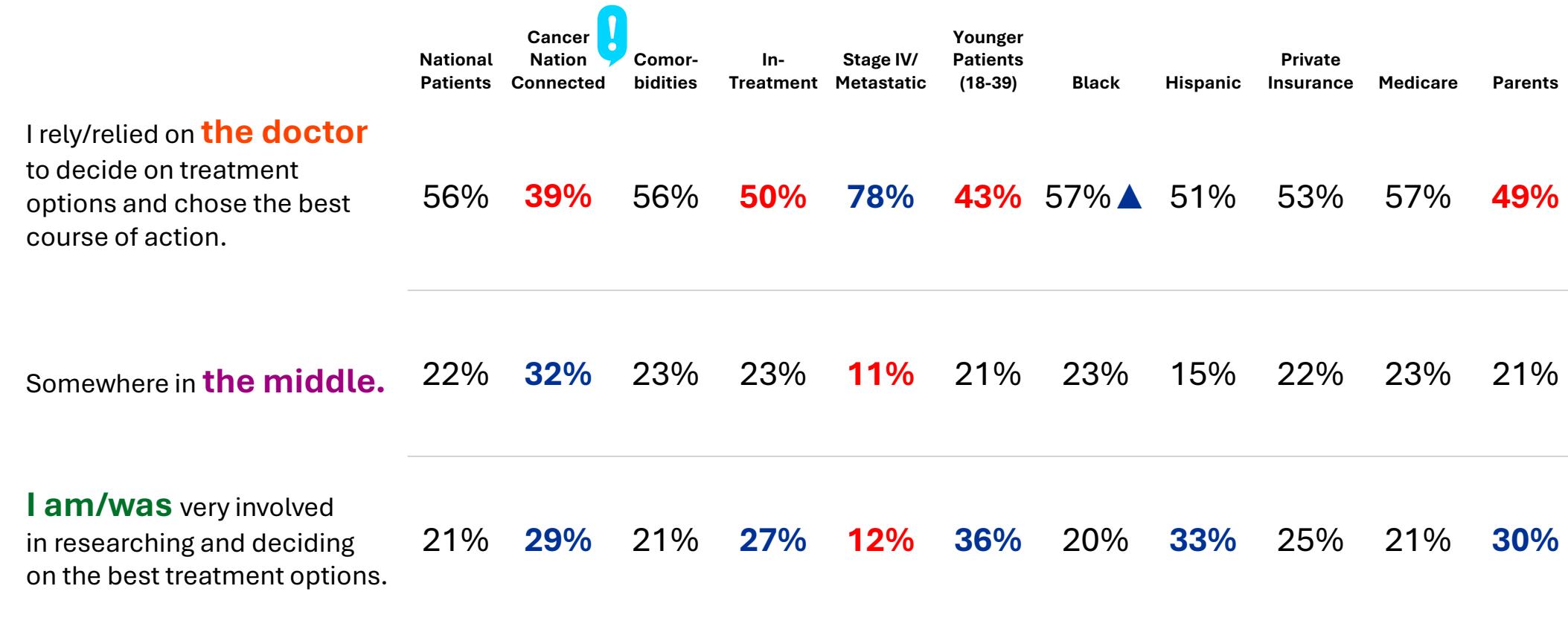
Somewhere in **the middle**.

National Patients



Treatment Decisions

Reliance on doctors is highest among patients with advanced disease and notably lower among Cancer Nation Connected and younger patients.

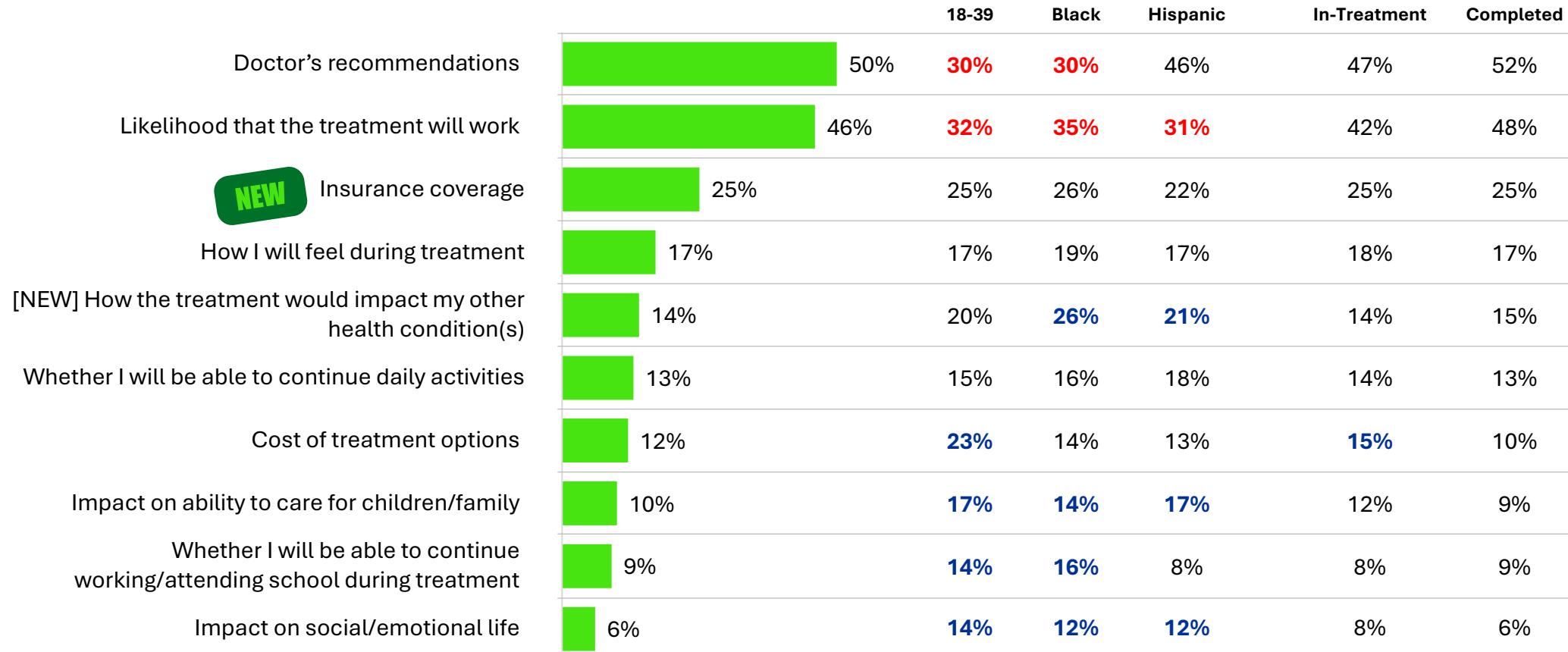


Treatment Decision-making Priorities

“Doctor’s recommendations” remains the top decision-making factor.

A quarter say insurance coverage was important.

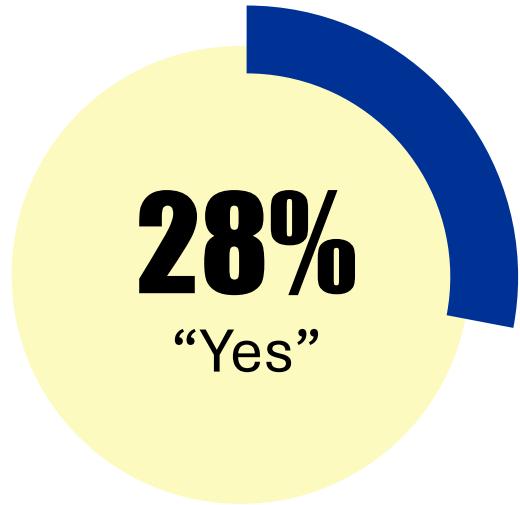
How important each was in making decisions about treatment: 1st + 2nd most



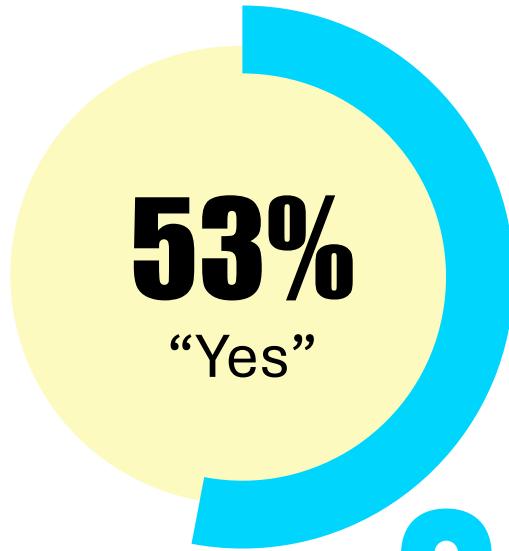
Second Opinions

Just over a quarter of patients sought a second opinion.
Those who did not say they trust in their health care provider.

Did you seek a second opinion?



**National
Patients**

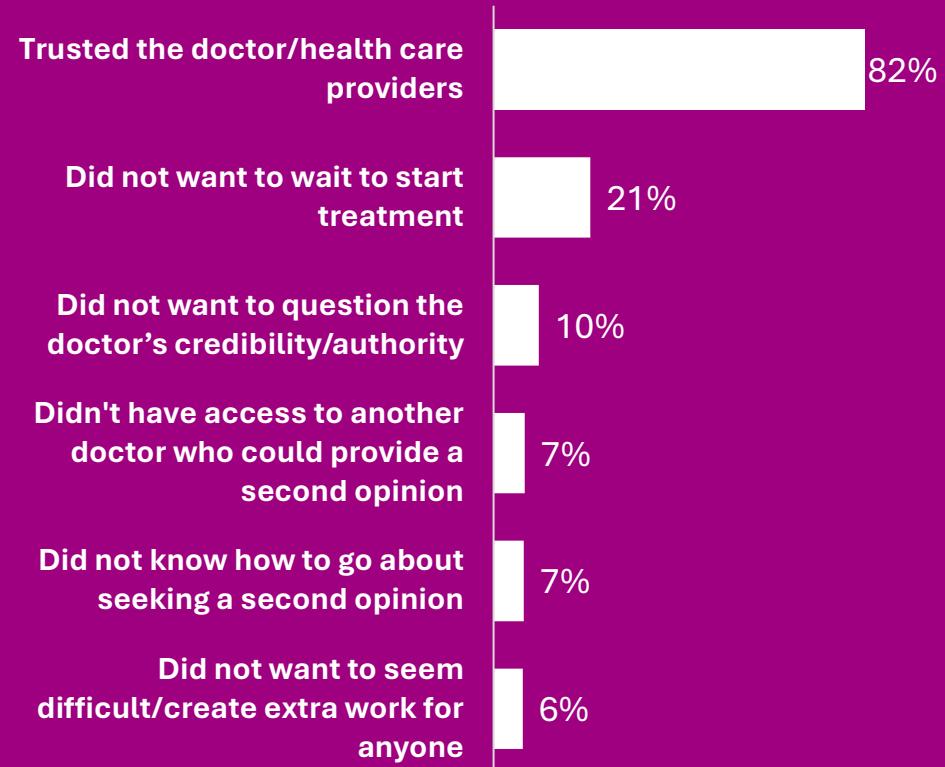


**Cancer Nation
Connected**

Higher among

46% Younger (18-39)	34% Parents
36% Hispanic Patients	33% No chronic condition
36% In-Treatment	32% Private Insurance

Which of the following describes why you DID NOT seek a second opinion? Select all that apply. (Only asked if did not seek second opinion)



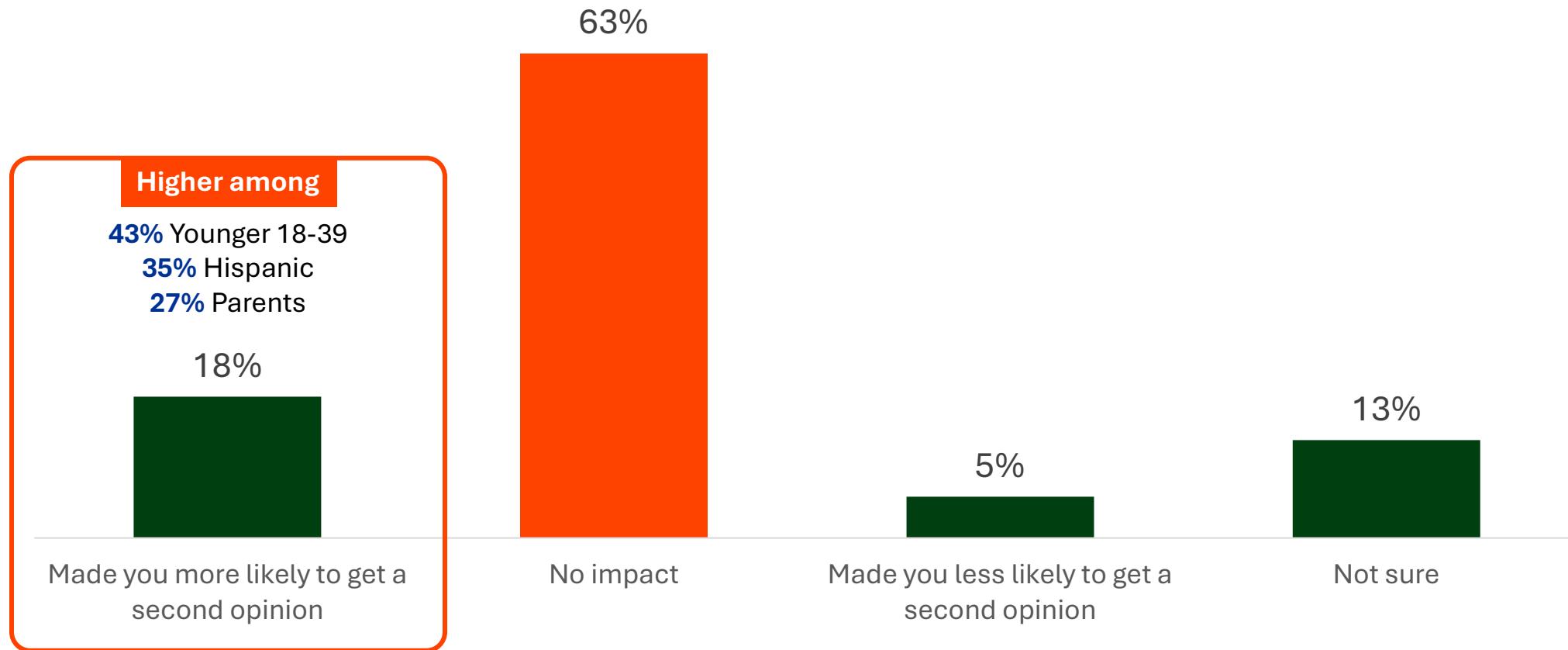
Second Opinions via Telehealth

The option of telehealth could boost second opinions, especially among younger and Hispanic patients, as well as parents.

NEW

If you had been given the option of a telehealth visit for a second opinion, would it have ...

Among those that did not seek second opinion

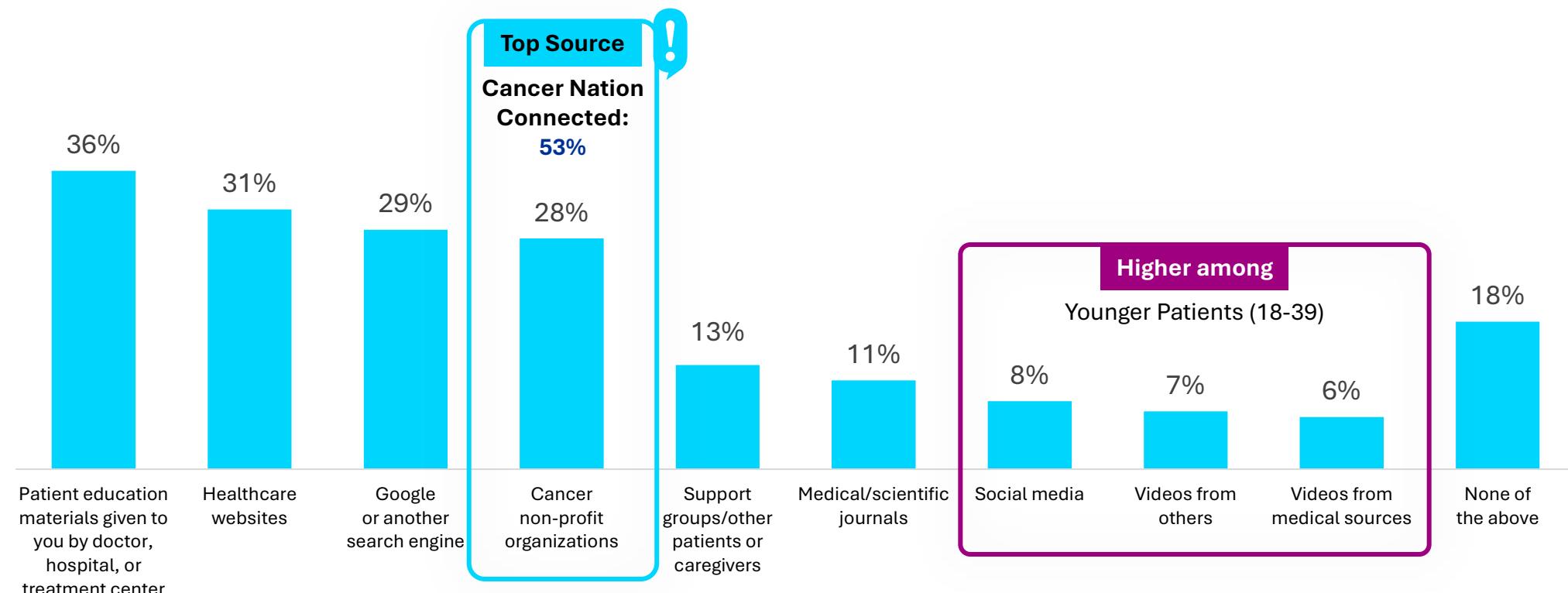


Resources for Cancer Information

Patients rely most on materials provided by their care team or those they can access digitally, while peer support and scientific sources are least utilized.

What resources, if any, do you use for up-to-date information on cancer? Please select up to 3.

Sources under 5%: Broadcast news, commercials/ads for cancer treatment, cable news, online newsletters, podcasts, radio, other



Cancer Nation Connected

more likely

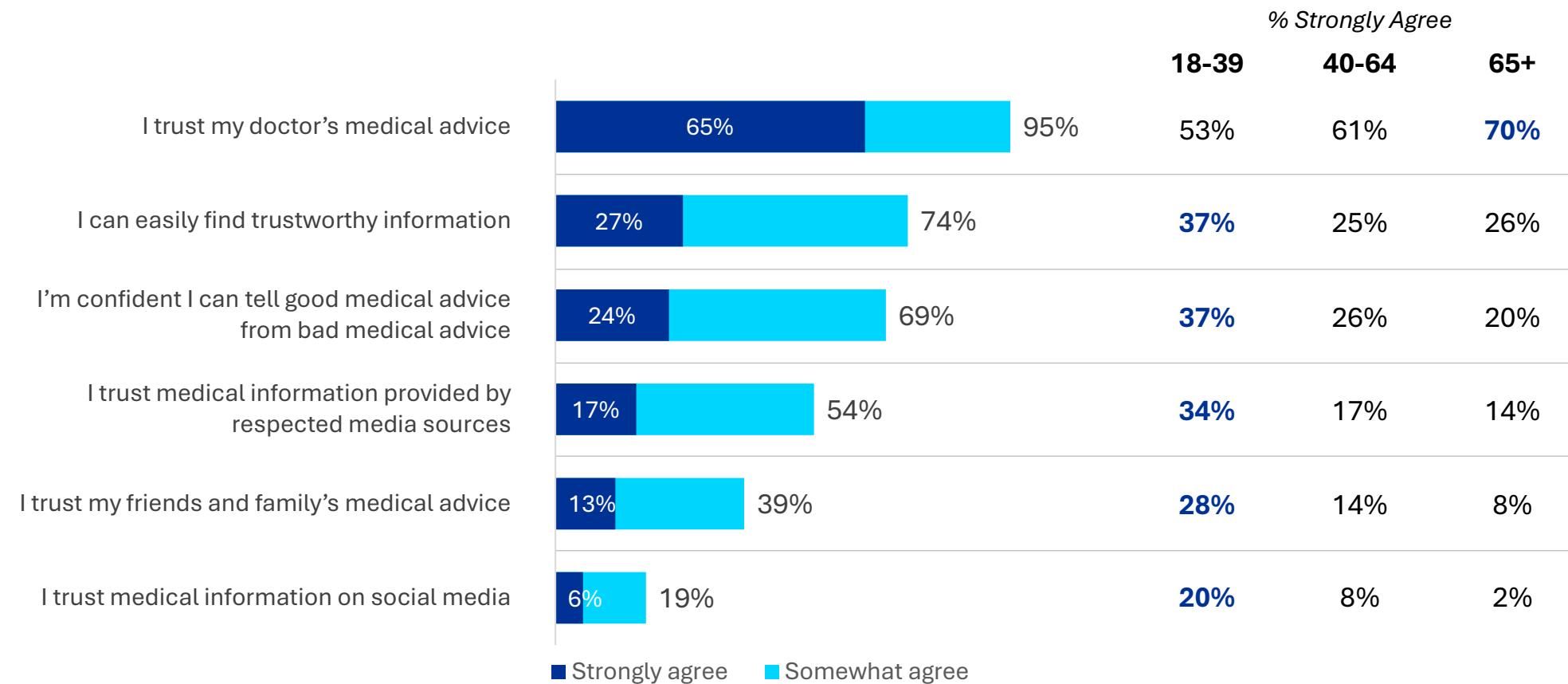
to select cancer non-profit organizations, support groups, medical/scientific publications, social media, and video content from others and medical sources, online newsletters.

Trusted Information

Patients trust their doctors for medical advice, but after that, trust diminishes, as well as confidence in finding and being able to tell good info from bad. Younger patients are more confident generally.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements when it comes to information related to your cancer treatment and care?

NEW

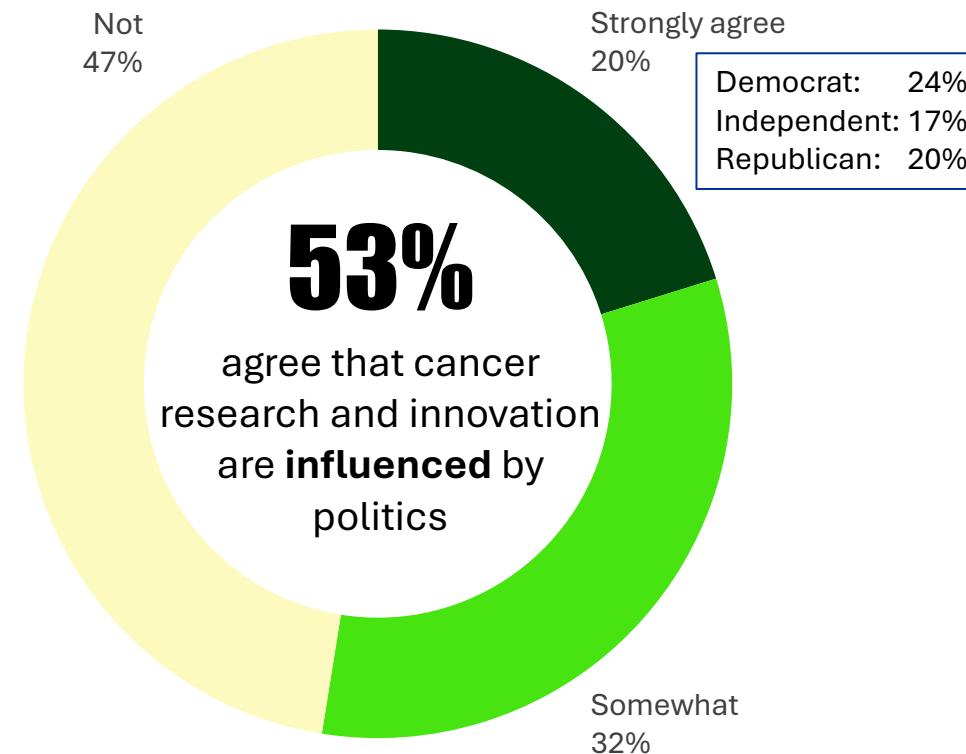
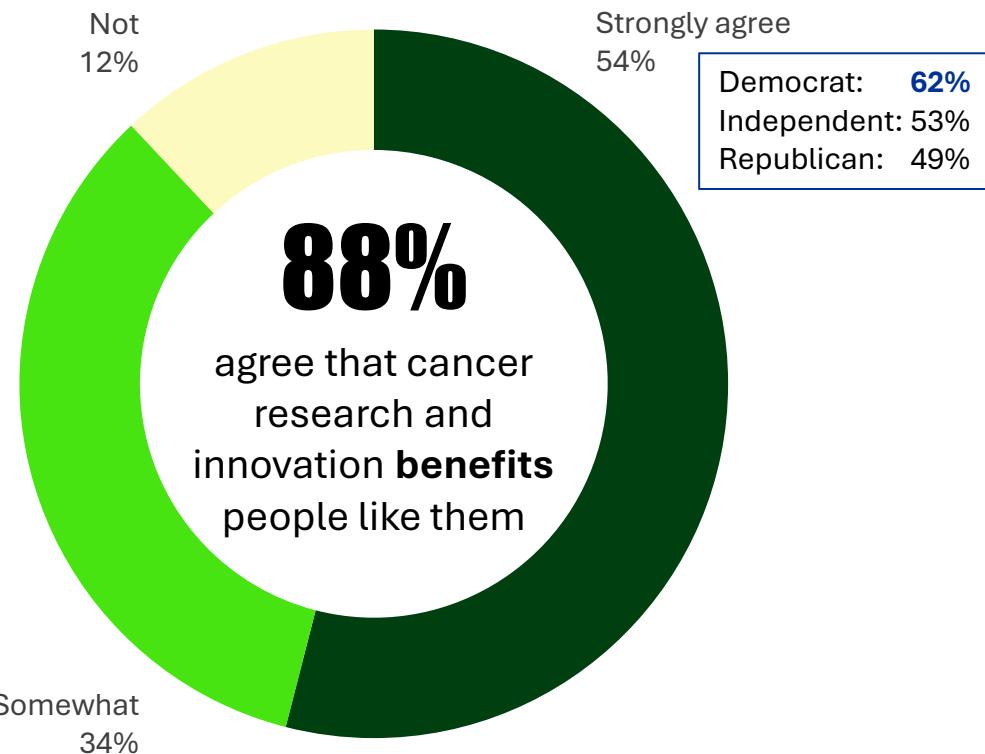


Perceptions of Cancer Research

Most patients see cancer research and innovation as benefiting them.

Half believe research and innovation are influenced by politics.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements when it comes to information related to your cancer treatment and care?



Clinical Trial Participation

Participation remains consistent with previous years.

Did you participate in a clinical trial related to your cancer diagnosis?



Higher among

- 34% Younger (18-39)
- 23% Hispanic Patients
- 17% In-Treatment
- 17% Stage IV/Metastatic
- 17% Parents
- 17% Sought 2nd Opinion
- 16% No chronic condition
- 16% HHI \$100k+
- 14% College+
- 14% Impacted Financially



Clinical Trial Participation

Top motivating factors for clinical trials continue to be the doctor's recommendation and contributing to research. Those in treatment are more likely to cite the benefits: improved care, new treatments, and reduced cost.

What influenced your decision to participate in a clinical trial? Select all that apply.

(Only asked if did participate)

	In Treatment	Completed
The doctor's recommendation	51%	58%
Wanted to contribute to science/help others	44%	36%
It was the best treatment option	33%	42%
Improved or extra level of care	32%	51%
Prospect of access to new treatments	30%	41%
Wanted to be proactive/have a sense of control	30%	43%
Looked into it/researched being in a clinical trial	18%	28%
Reduced cost of treatment/receive financial reimbursement	17%	29%
Was out of treatment options	13%	21%
Other	1%	2%
		-

Clinical Trial Barriers

The leading barrier to participation remains not being asked, though some groups also cite concerns about side effects, treatment type, feeling like a test subject, financial impacts, and logistics.

What influenced your decision NOT to participate in a clinical trial?

(Only asked if did not participate)

	Cancer Nation Connected	Younger Patients (18-39)	Black	Hispanic	In-Treatment	Chronic condition
Was not asked to participate in a clinical trial	72%	59%	62%	48%	60%	74%
Was not eligible/did not qualify to participate in a clinical trial	13%	22%	12%	9%	13%	12%
Concerned about possible side-effects	8%	8%	32%	16%	15%	16%
Concerned about type of treatment that would be received	7%	8%	20%	14%	20%	13%
Feeling like a test subject or guinea pig	5%	7%	18%	18%	9%	10%
Possibility of receiving a placebo	5%	9%	11%	7%	10%	11%
Concerned insurance might not cover all medical costs	5%	6%	16%	8%	16%	11%
Location of clinical trial(s) was too far away	5%	6%	17%	10%	8%	9%
My overall health did not allow participating in a clinical trial	5%	6%	11%	10%	5%	9%
Out-of-pocket costs (e.g. travel, lodging)	5%	5%	18%	6%	8%	9%
Non-medical factors such as work/school interruption or childcare	2%	6%	5%	2%	5%	3%
Did not trust the health care provider(s) suggesting a clinical trial had my best interests at heart	2%	7%	4%	6%	1%	3%
Other	3%	6%	-	-	5%	3%

SECTION 2

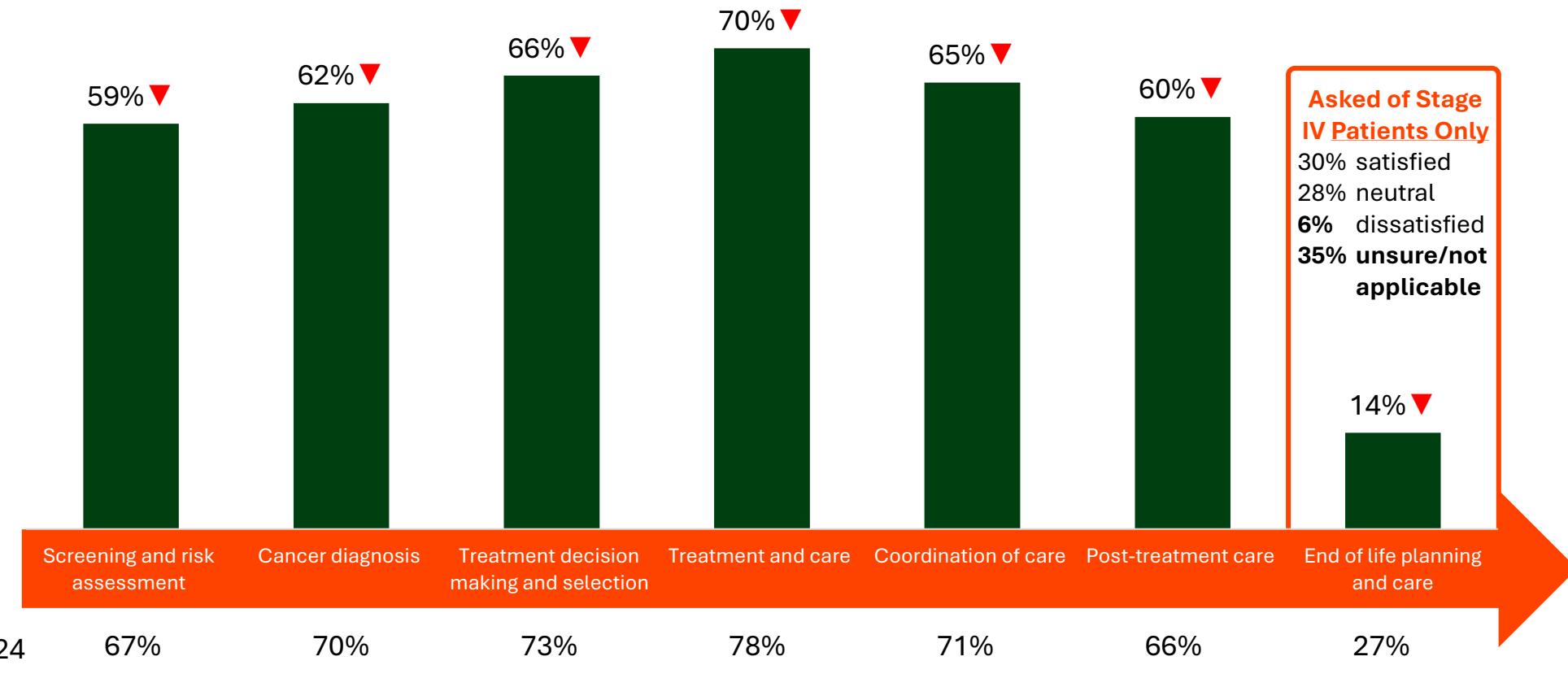
CANCER CARE EXPERIENCES

Patient Satisfaction With Care

While majorities are satisfied with most stages of their cancer journey, satisfaction is down this year across the board.

How satisfied are/were you with your/their care during each phase?

% Very satisfied



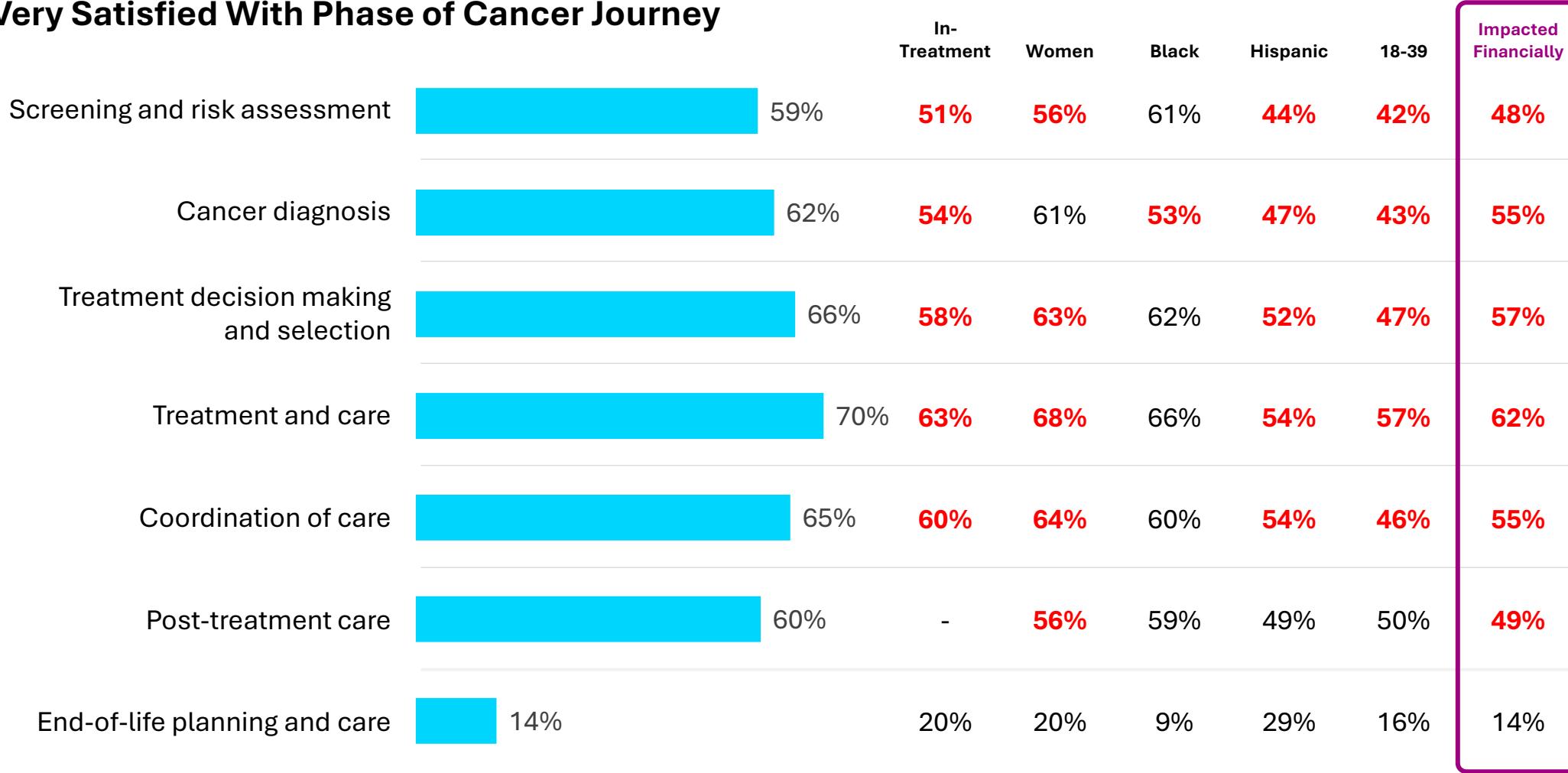
2 items driving the decrease
the most are:

- More patients with financial challenges
- More patients who say their emotional health is not great

Patient Satisfaction With Care

Underserved audiences and those who struggled financially through treatment were less satisfied across the phases.

Very Satisfied With Phase of Cancer Journey



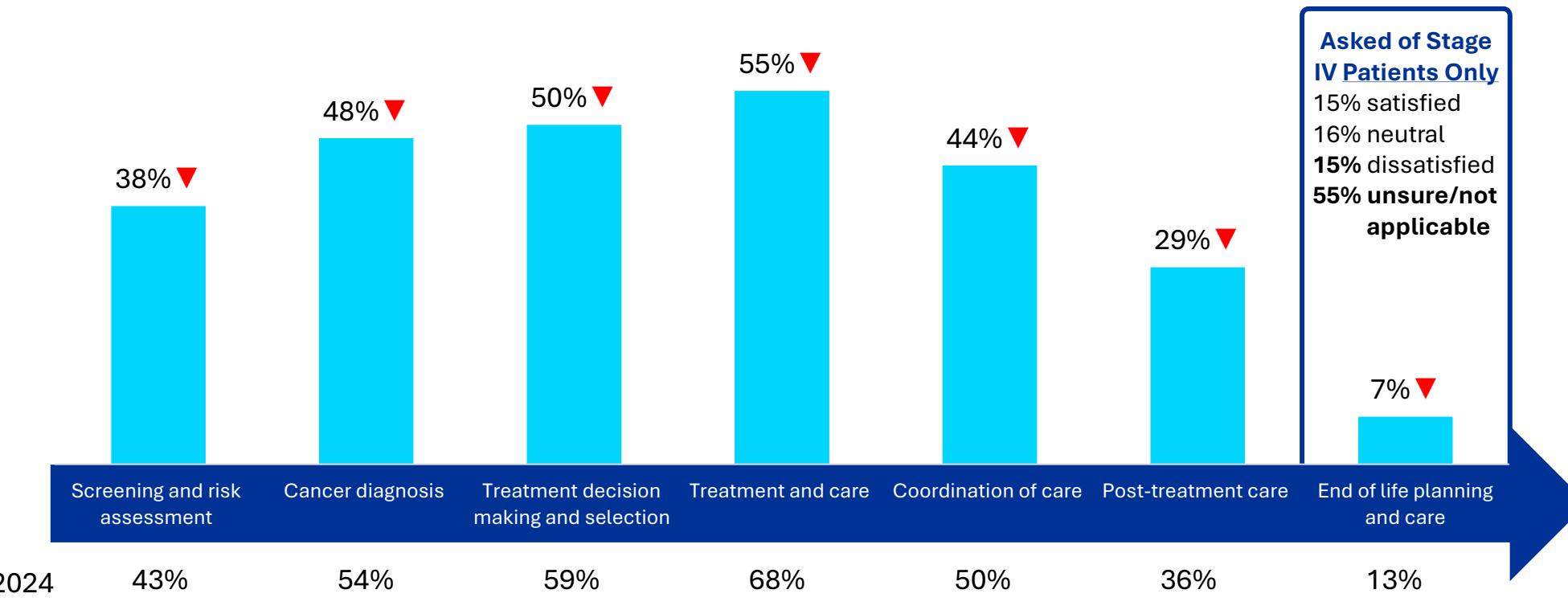
Patient Satisfaction With Care

Already significantly lower than the national sample, satisfaction is also down among Cancer Nation connected patients.



How satisfied are/were you with your/their care during each phase?

% Very satisfied

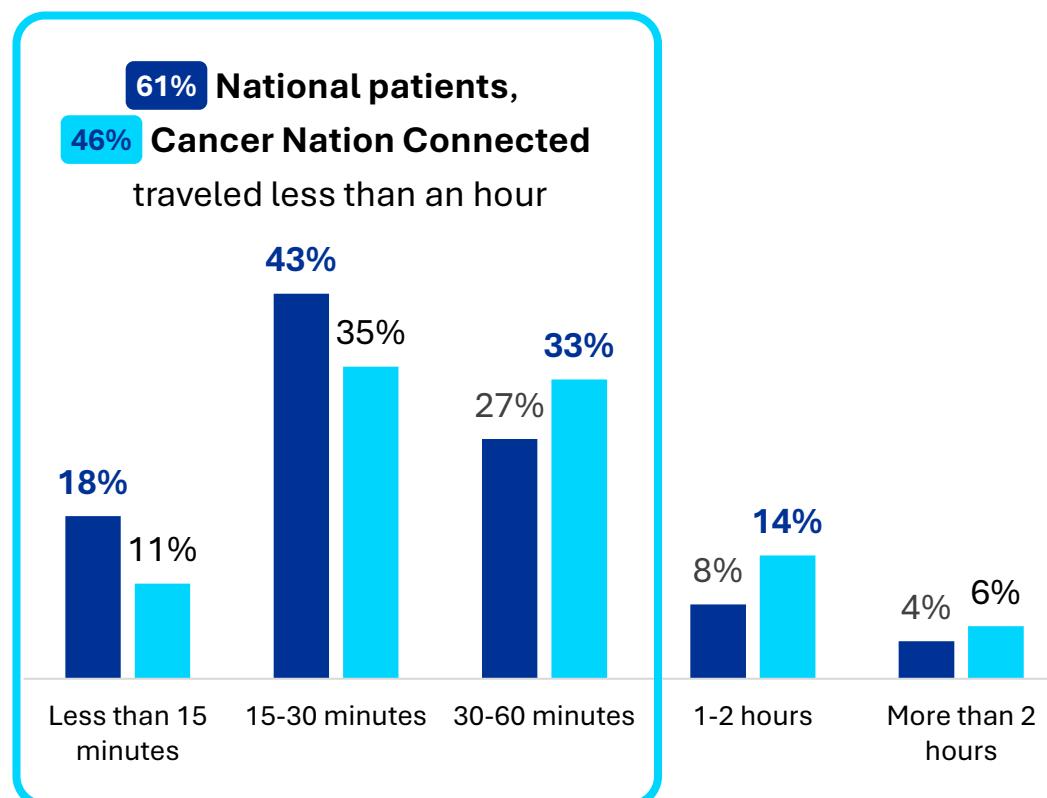


Treatment Settings & Time Spent Traveling

Over half of national patients receive treatment at community hospitals. Cancer Nation connected patients are more likely to receive treatment at academic centers. A majority of patients spend less than hour traveling for treatment one way, but Cancer Nation Connected patients are more likely to travel longer.

Treatment Location	National Patients	Cancer Nation Connected
Community hospital and/or cancer center	57%	47%
Doctor's office	24%	18%
Academic medical center/teaching hospital (affiliated with a medical school at a university)	16%	40%
Outpatient clinic	16%	16%
Private cancer center (not affiliated with a hospital)	15%	15%
Home infusion/home health	3%	6%
Other	4%	2%

How much time does it/did it typically take you to travel ONE WAY to where you receive/received cancer treatment?



Rural patients

are more likely to have traveled over an hour for treatment

21%

Side Effects Experienced

Feeling overly tired, fear of recurrence, and pain remain at the top of most frequent side effects. PTSD, a new addition in 2025, is not as common, but women and Hispanic patients are most impacted.

Symptoms experienced (top 16 out of 33 shown)

		Women	Men	Black	Hispanic	18-39	Impacted Most
Feeling overly tired	49%	58%	40%	45%	54%	55%	19%
Fear of a recurrence	41%	47%	35%	39%	33%	34%	18%
Pain	38%	42%	34%	43%	54%	56%	14%
Depression, anxiety, mental	32%	40%	24%	38%	42%	38%	15%
Uncertainty status of the cancer	29%	31%	28%	34%	23%	23%	10%
Loss of appetite and/or taste	29%	34%	24%	38%	41%	41%	8%
Weight loss	28%	29%	28%	37%	39%	54%	6%
Sexual concerns	27%	21%	33%	32%	25%	22%	8%
Nausea/vomiting or diarrhea	26%	32%	20%	36%	30%	43%	8%
Neuropathy	24%	28%	20%	26%	22%	22%	11%
Insomnia/sleeplessness	22%	30%	14%	27%	30%	32%	6%
Skin irritation/rash	19%	24%	14%	12%	23%	15%	5%
Concerns around body image	19%	27%	10%	23%	22%	25%	5%
Memory loss, cognitive issues	14%	20%	7%	12%	17%	20%	4%
High blood pressure	13%	12%	13%	18%	20%	21%	3%
Fever/chills	12%	13%	11%	20%	15%	28%	2%

NEW

PTSD, 7%, #21 out of 33

Higher among: Women 11%, Hispanic 12%

93%

+ 1 pts.

of patients experienced at least one issue symptom during treatment

Health Care Team Helpfulness with Side Effects

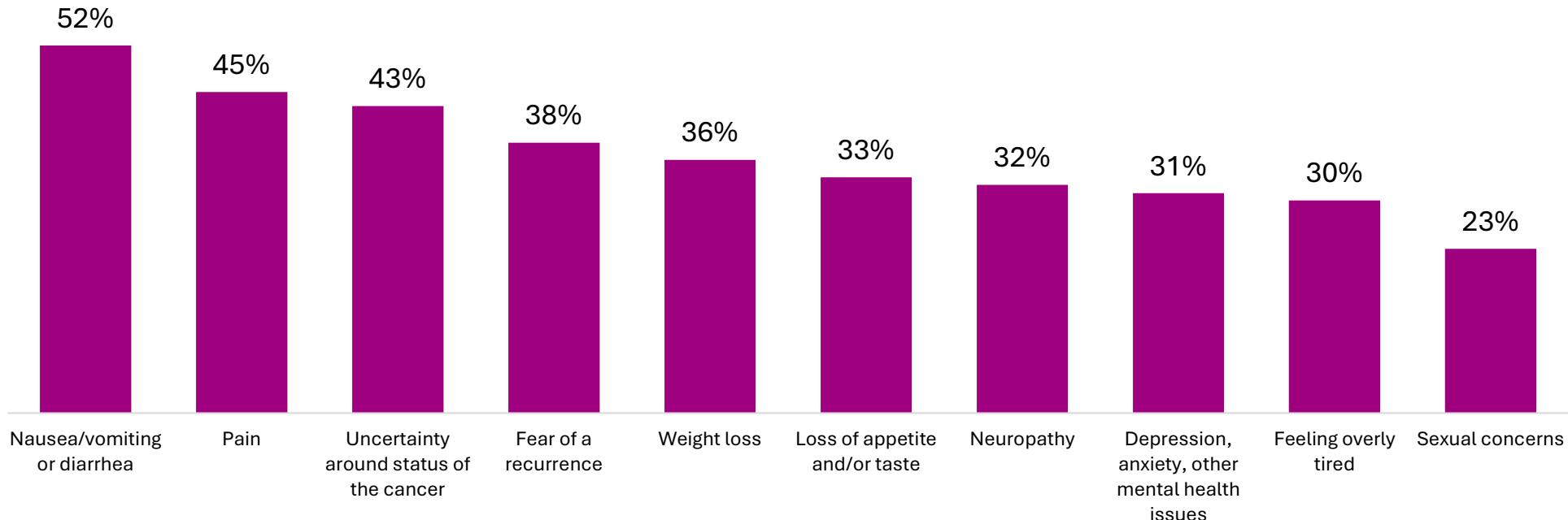
Among those who experienced the top side effects, only about a third found their health care teams to be 'very helpful'.

Health Care Team Very Helpful

(among those who experienced that side effect, top 10 experienced)

Experienced:

26% 38% 29% 41% 28% 29% 24% 32% 49% 27%



**Cancer
Nation
Connected**

more likely

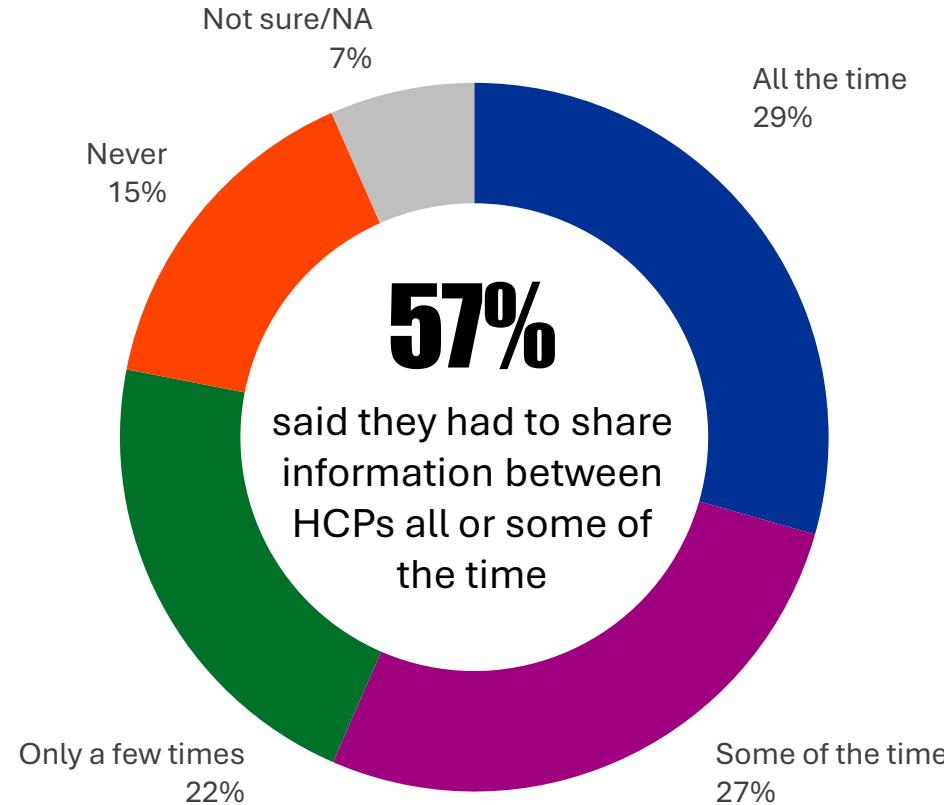
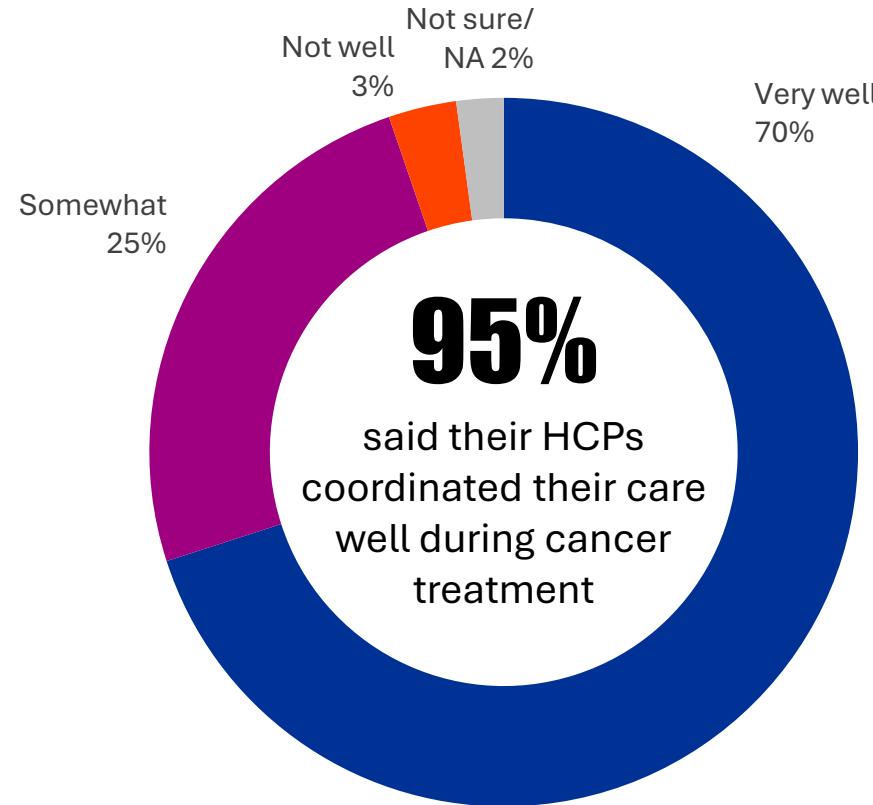
experience nearly all side effects and report

lower scores

on health care team helpfulness for nearly all side effects experienced.

Coordination of Care

Majorities say their health care providers coordinated well, YET half of patients share information with their providers all or some of the time.



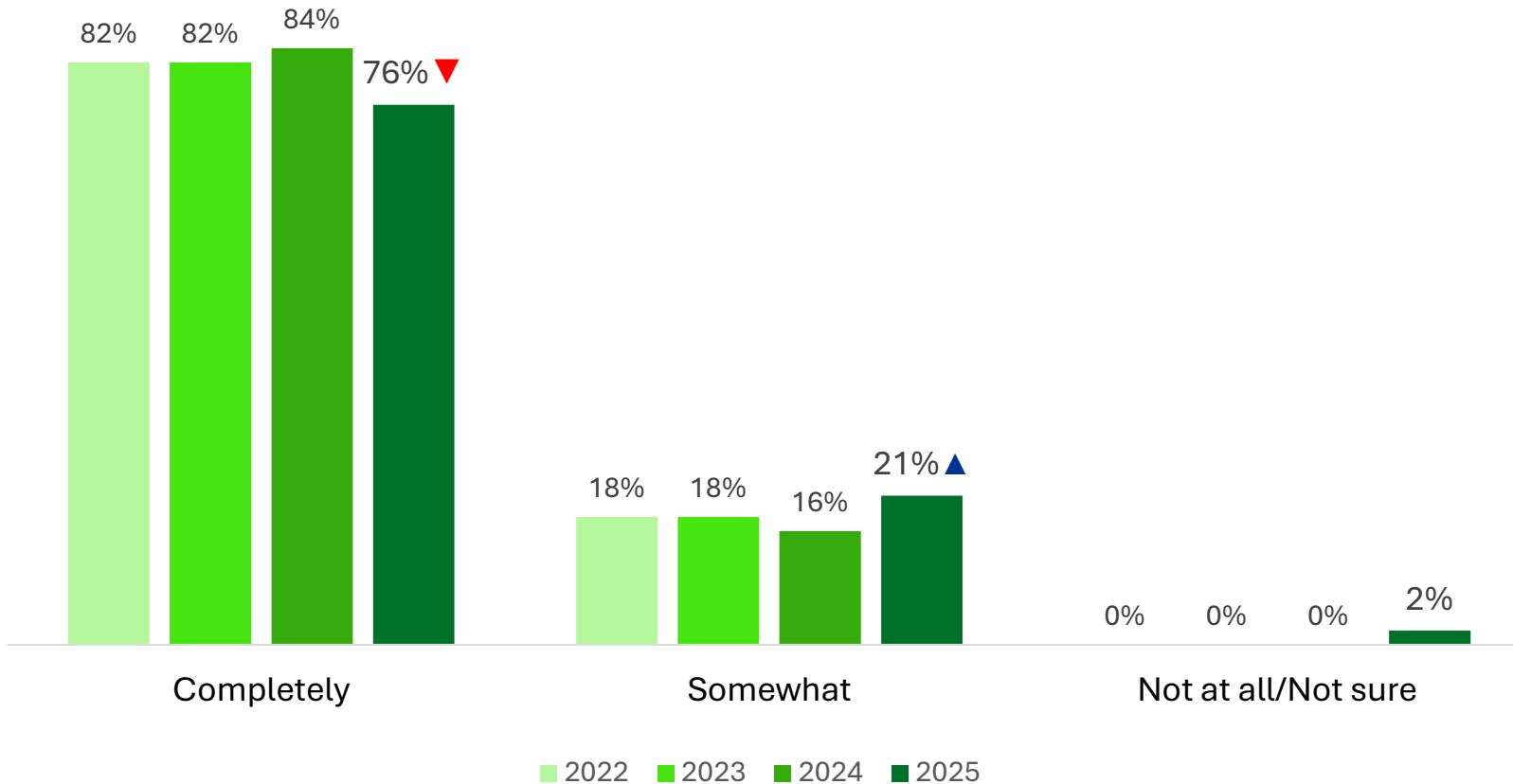
Trust of Health Care Team

Although majorities of patients still trust their health care teams to act in their best interests, trust has eroded this year.

Trust in Health Care Team to Act in Best Interests

Complete trust in health care team is lower among

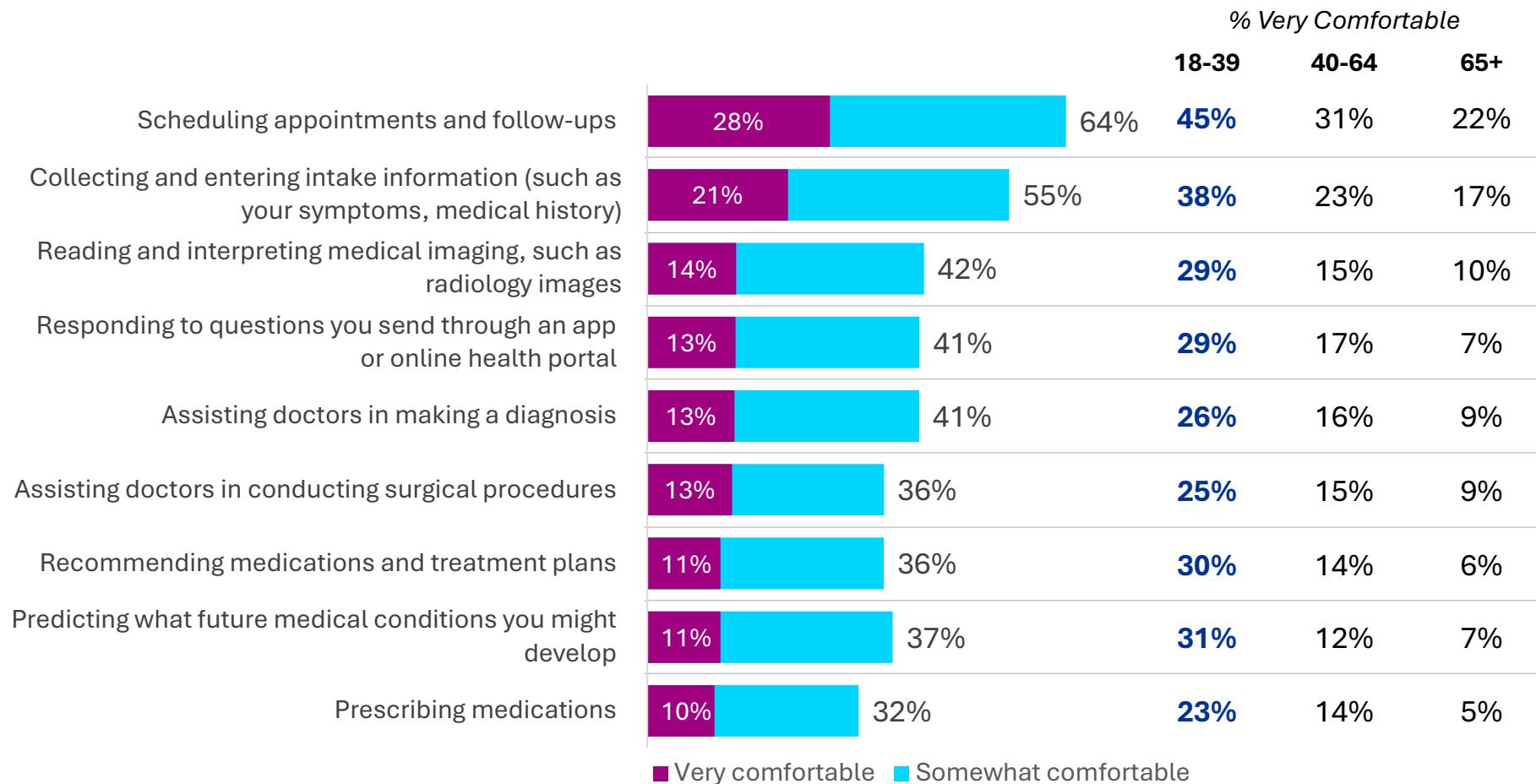
- 73% Women
- 71% No chronic condition
- 70% Younger 18-39
- 67% Hispanic
- 60%▼ Cancer Nation Connected



Cancer Treatment and AI

Patients are most comfortable with AI doing administrative tasks, less comfortable with clinical tasks. Younger patients are more comfortable with all AI use cases.

When it comes to your cancer treatment and care, how comfortable would you be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes ...



“Uncomfortable”

Higher among

- Completed Treatment
- Women
- White Patients
- Rural

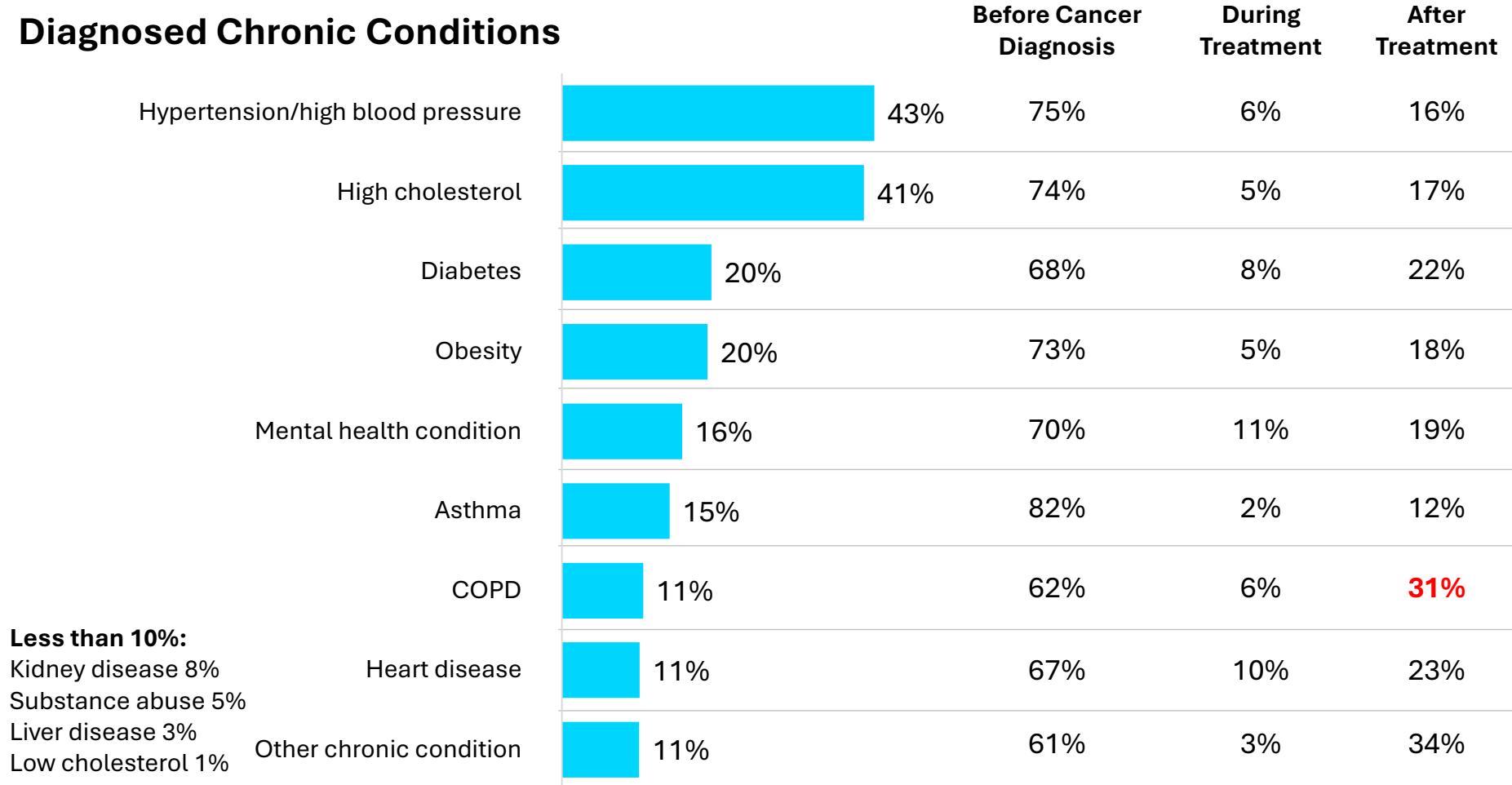
SECTION 3

CANCER AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Chronic Conditions

Eight-in-10 patients have another disease diagnosis, with high blood pressure and high cholesterol the most common. Most say these conditions were diagnosed prior to their cancer diagnosis.

Diagnosed Chronic Conditions



79%

of cancer patients diagnosed with at least one chronic condition

Less than 10%:

Kidney disease 8%

Substance abuse 5%

Liver disease 3%

Low cholesterol 1%

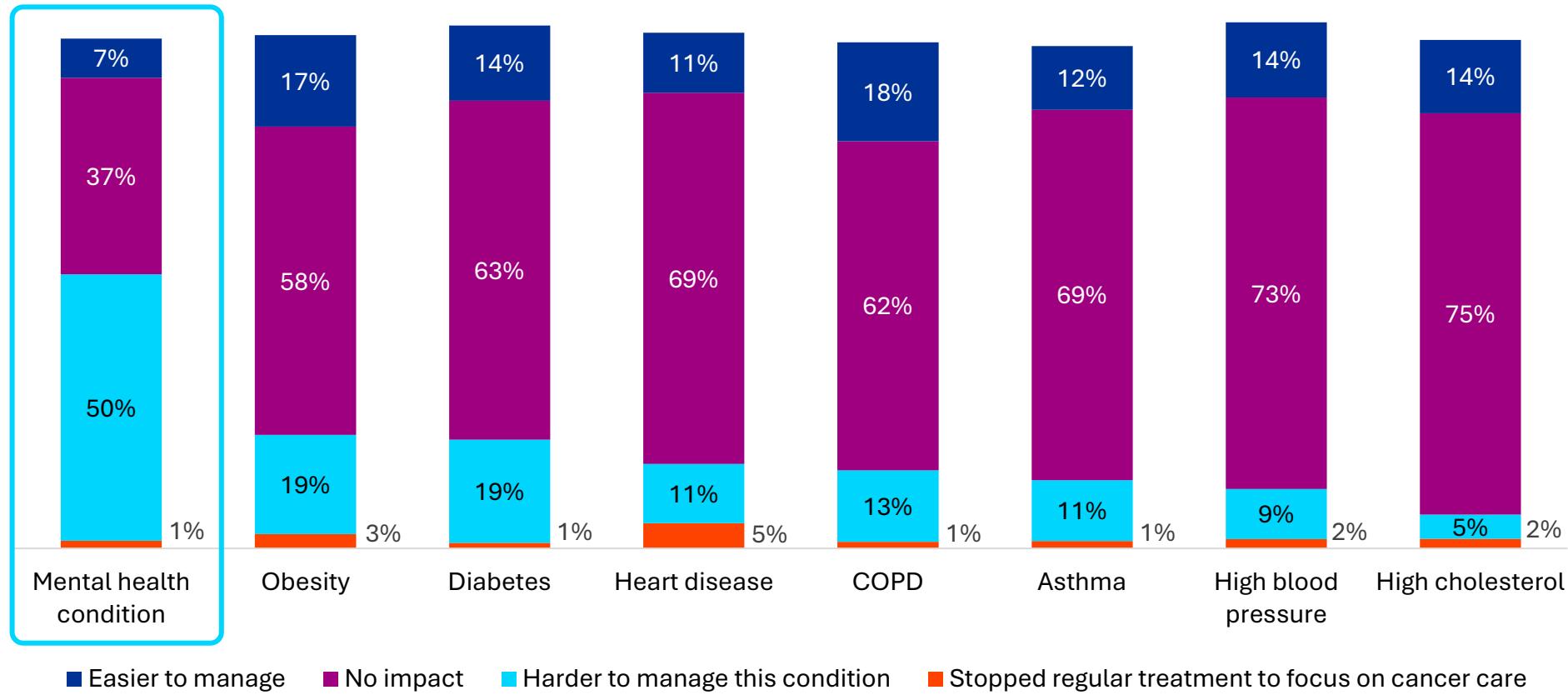
Heart disease

Other chronic condition

Cancer's Impact on Caring for Other Health Conditions

Half of those with a mental health condition found it harder to manage during their cancer treatment, but few had issues managing other conditions nor needed to stop treatment for that condition.

How has/did cancer treatment impact your ability to manage other health condition(s) – like going to regular doctors' visits, taking medications, recommended diet/exercise, etc.?

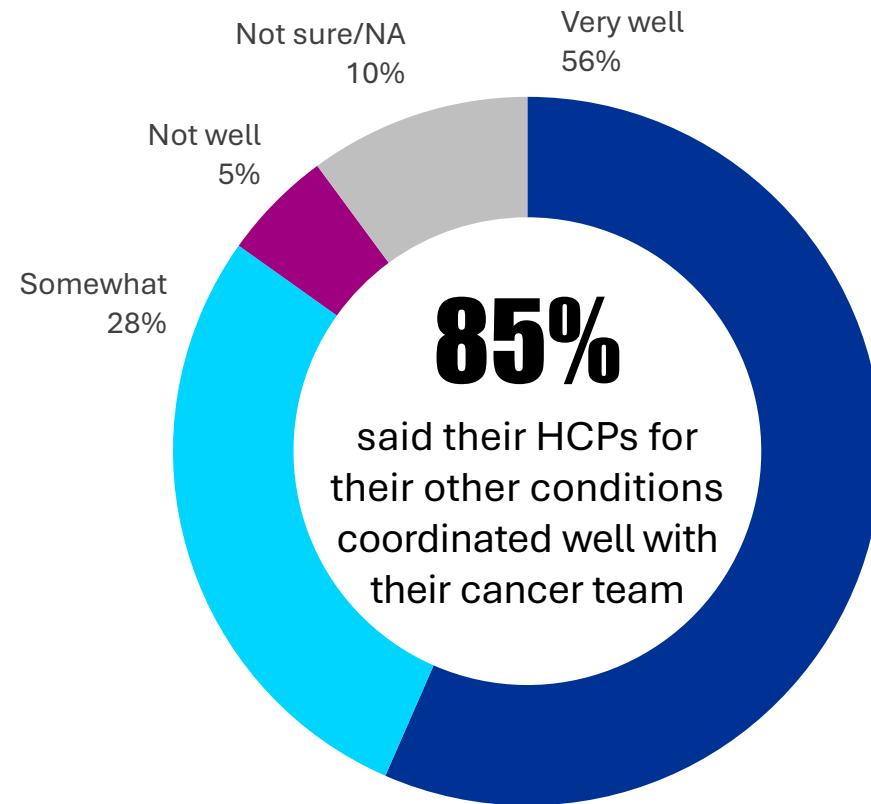
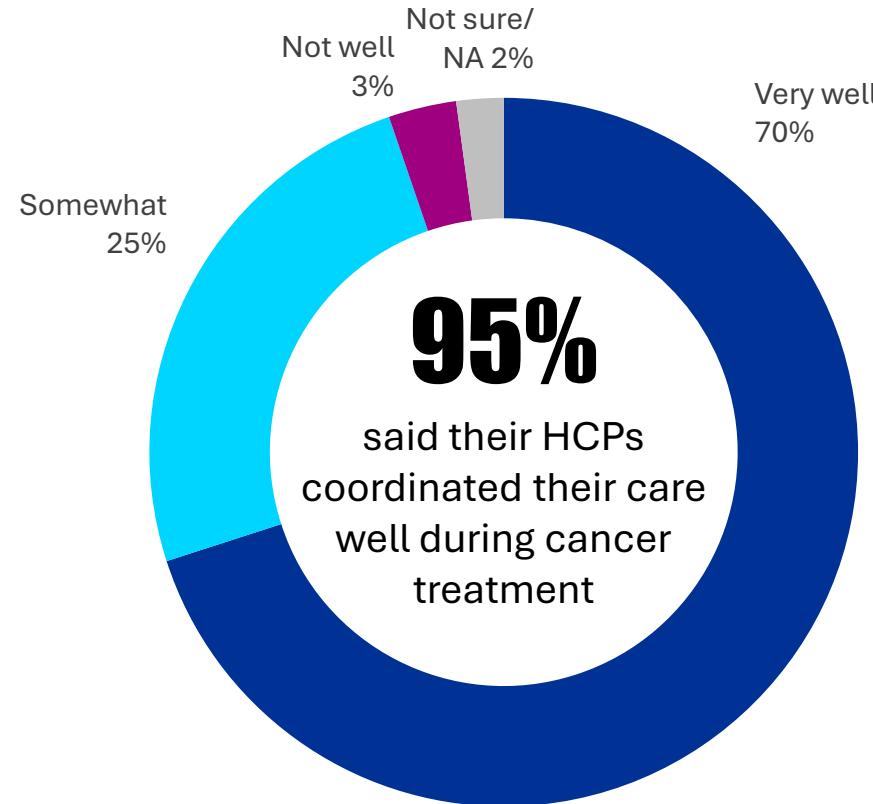


83%

said their focus is/was on their cancer and treatment, rather than my other health condition(s)

Coordination of Care

Majorities say their health care providers coordinated well with each other but give slightly lower ratings when asked specifically about coordination with teams handling their other chronic conditions.



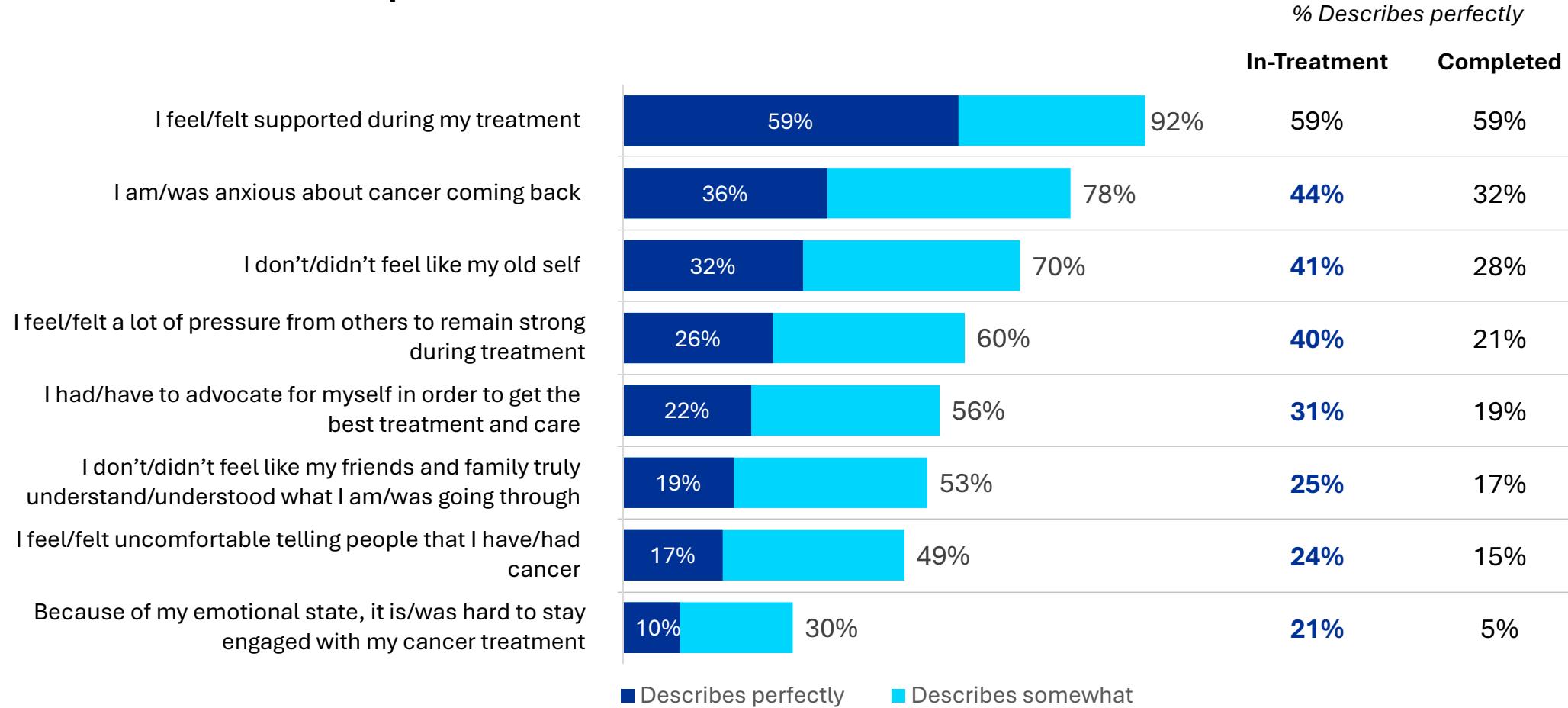
SECTION 4

PATIENT EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT

Patient Mindset and Experiences

While majorities feel/felt supported during their cancer treatment, majorities struggle/d with a range of emotional issues. Many of these negative sentiments are 10+ points higher with those still in treatment.

Patient Mindset and Experiences



Patient Mindset and Experiences

Younger patients, patients of color, and parents are more likely to feel isolated and uncomfortable during their treatment.

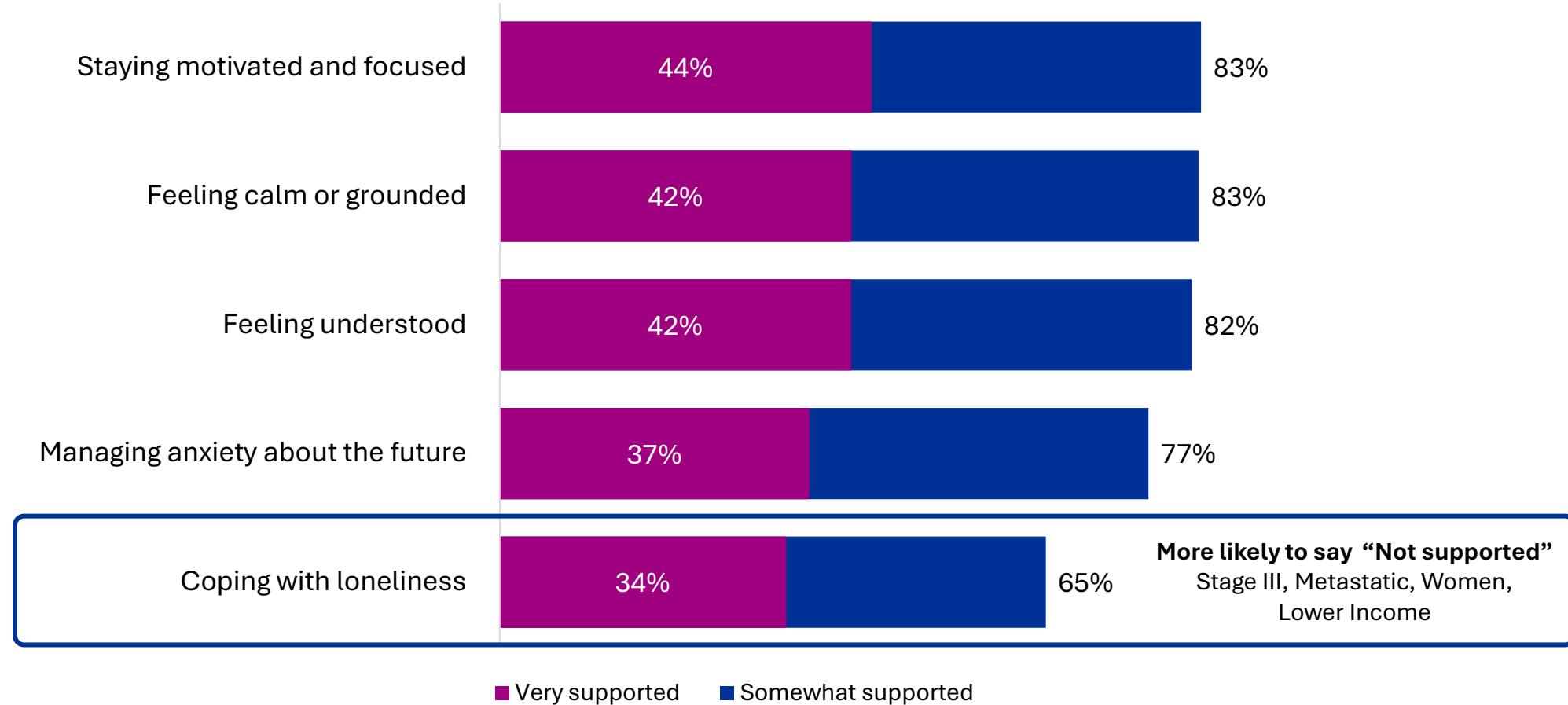
% Describes perfectly

	National Patients	Cancer Nation Connected	Women	18-39	Black/AA	Hispanic	Parent
I feel/felt supported during my treatment	59%	47%	54%	49%	54%	52%	55%
I am/was anxious about cancer coming back	36%	50%	40%	59%	38%	44%	48%
I don't/didn't feel like my old self	32%	45%	34%	48%	47%	41%	39%
I feel/felt a lot of pressure from others to remain strong during treatment	26%	37%	27%	49%	35%	47%	40%
I had/have to advocate for myself in order to get the best treatment and care	22%	44%	23%	35%	32%	35%	30%
I don't/didn't feel like my friends and family truly understand what I am/was going through	19%	35%	24%	40%	25%	29%	26%
I feel/felt uncomfortable telling people that I have/had cancer	17%	24%	19%	38%	28%	26%	22%
Because of my emotional state, it is/was hard to stay engaged w/ cancer treatment	10%	16%	10%	32%	17%	23%	17%

Emotional Support

While 6-in-10 said they felt very supported during their treatment, when we dug into emotional support, less than half feel very supported in any of these specific ways, especially dealing with loneliness.

Supported During Cancer Journey



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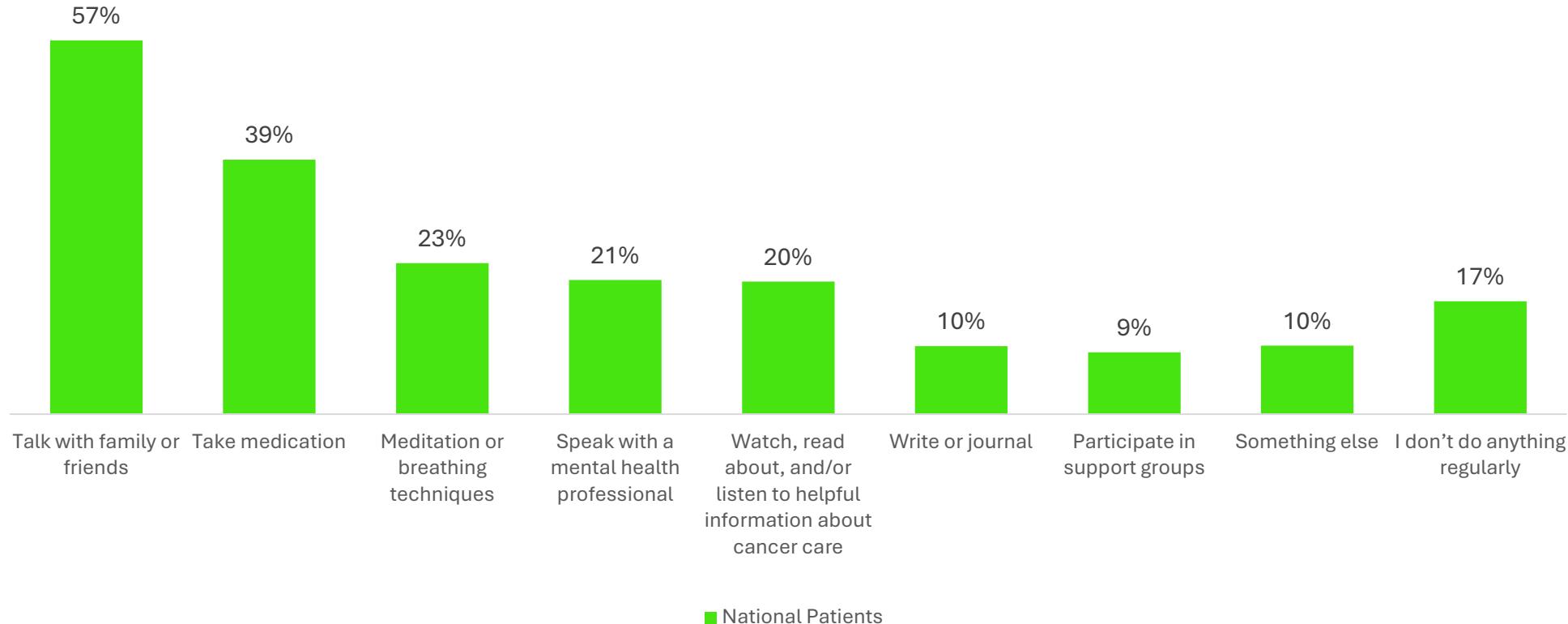
more likely

to say they were
“not supported”
in all areas

Managing Emotional Health

Talking with family or friends and taking medication are the most common coping strategies, while Cancer Nation Connected patients report higher engagement with a wide variety of activities.

Which of the following do you regularly do to help with your emotional health/psychological wellbeing? Select all that apply.



Source= National Patients (n=1305); Cancer Nation Connected Patients (n=703)

Mental health activities

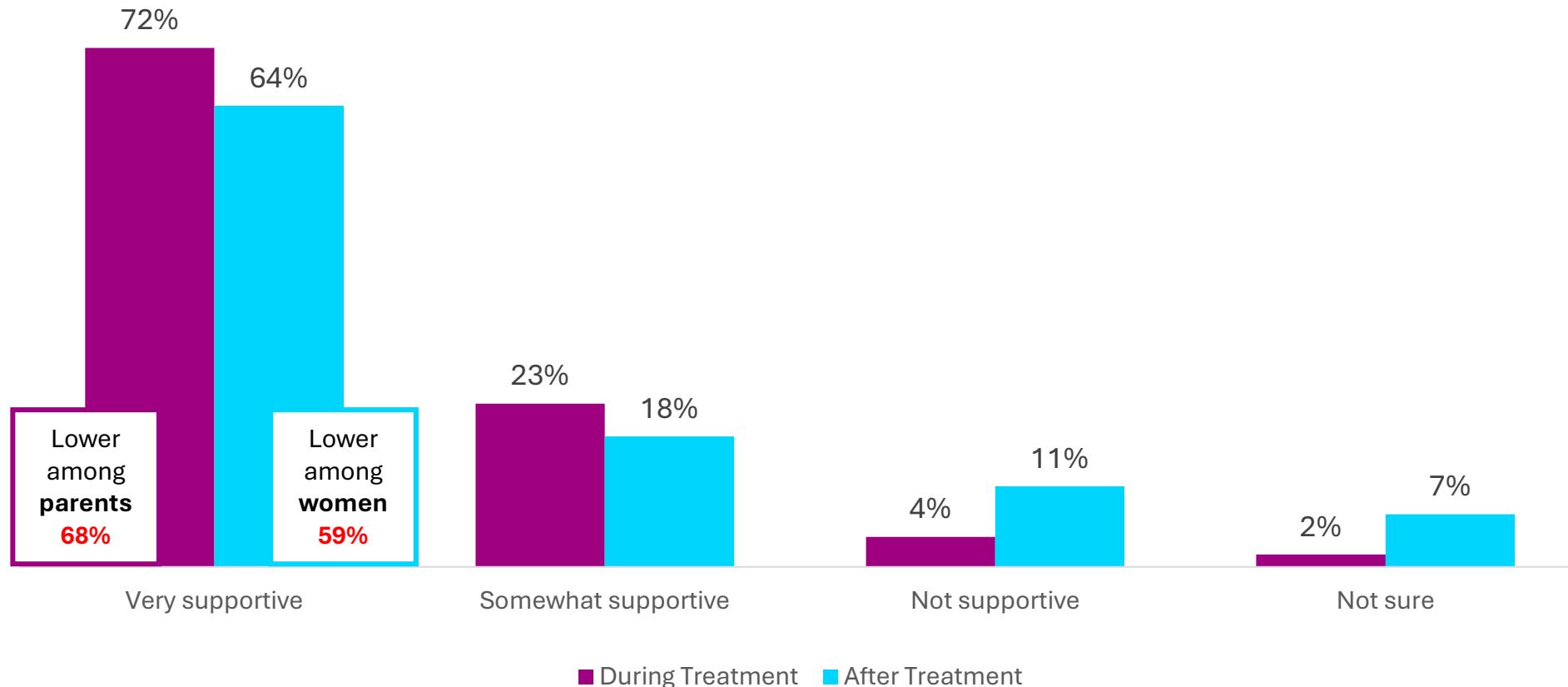
higher among

- Cancer Nation Connected
- In Treatment
- Stage II
- Younger Patients (18-39)
- Hispanic Patients
- Private Insurance
- Parents

Employer Support

Of those employed, two-thirds feel their employer was very supportive during and after treatment. Parents and women were less likely to report high levels of support.

Employer Support



51%

of Patients
were employed
during treatment

Employer Support

Four-in-10 were allowed flexible hours and paid medical leave during treatment, and open-ends suggest accommodations and check-ins make employees feel supported.

Access Through Employer During Treatment

Flexible hours	44%
Paid medical leave	43%
Remote work	24%
Adjusted job responsibilities	21%
Additional breaks	17%
Counseling and support services	13%
Financial assistance	10%
Accessible equipment	5%
Educational resources	5%
Other	3%
None of the above	18%

Supported

“My employer continues to be understanding of me needing to adjust my schedule often for medical appointments.”

“They were always checking up on me and making sure I didn't need anything.”

“They kept my position open for me to work at my own pace to achieve full time return to work.”



Unsupported

“I was demoted first, then terminated and told I can come back and reapply when I'm 100%, which would be never.”

“They never asked how I was doing. They just expected me to be able to do my job as before.”

“They were much less willing to work with me when I returned from medical leave. They didn't want to adjust my hours or responsibilities as I worked through recovery.”

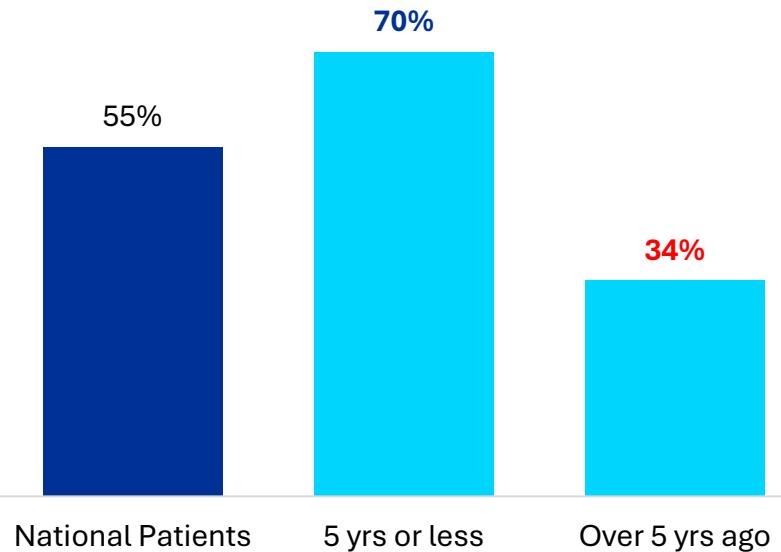
SECTION 5

POST-TREATMENT CARE AND SURVIVORSHIP

In Post-Treatment Care

Just over half of patients who have completed treatment are receiving post-treatment care, largely determined by time since their diagnosis. The #1 reason for lack of post-treatment care is a doctor's recommendation.

Currently Under the Care of an HCP for Post-treatment Care



Cancer Nation Connected: 68%
80% 5 years or less
53% Over 5 years ago

Which of the following describes the reason/reasons you are not currently in post-treatment medical care?

Select all that apply.

Doctor said there is no need for post-treatment care at this time or anymore	58%
Health care providers didn't recommend getting post-treatment care	13%
Do not believe cancer and treatments will affect my current/future health	6%
I am just sick of going to doctor visits	6%
Costs of post-treatment care are too high	4%
Other health needs are more challenging to manage/a priority	3%
Moved and have not found another doctor for post-treatment care	3%
Takes too much time to go to appointments for post-treatment care	2%
Transportation issues getting to post-treatment care	2%
Cannot take time from work/school for post treatment care	2%
Insurance didn't cover the tests doctor recommended	1%
Unsure of who to go to for post-treatment care	1%
Still on a waiting list for post-treatment care	1%
Providers or survivorship clinic are not in-network/covered by insurance	-
Other	8%
None of the above	13%

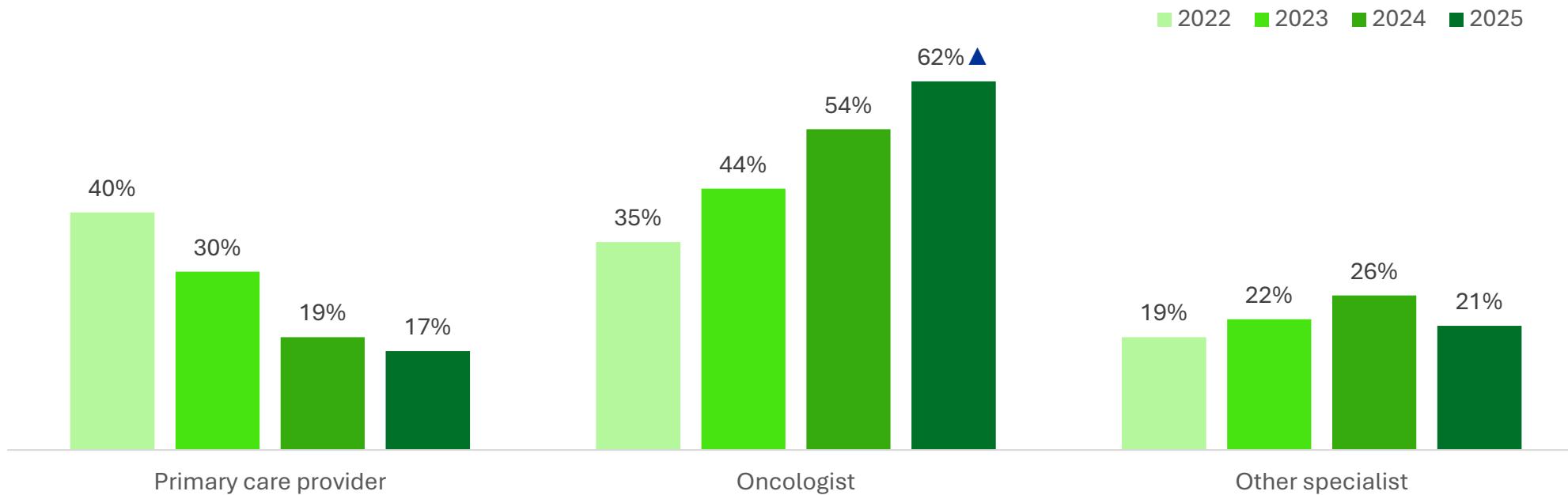
No differences by time since treatment

Post-Treatment Experiences

The number of patients in post-treatment who report they are seeing a PCP has declined over time, while the number who are seeing an oncologist continues to increase.

Who is the primary health care provider managing your post-treatment medical care?

(asked of those in post-treatment care)



<5 Yrs. Since Treatment

14%

66%

19%

5 Yrs.+ Since Treatment

24%

50%

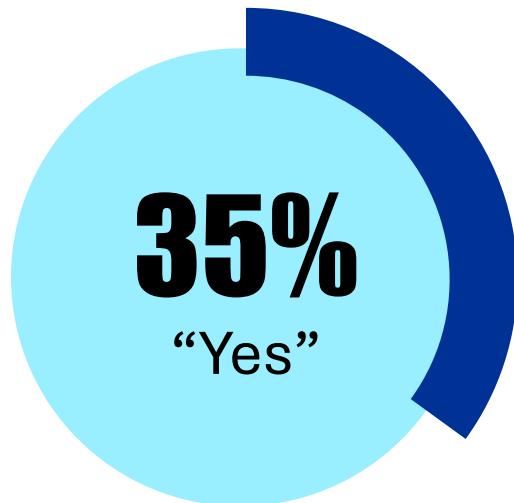
26%

Willingness to See a PCP for Post-Treatment Care

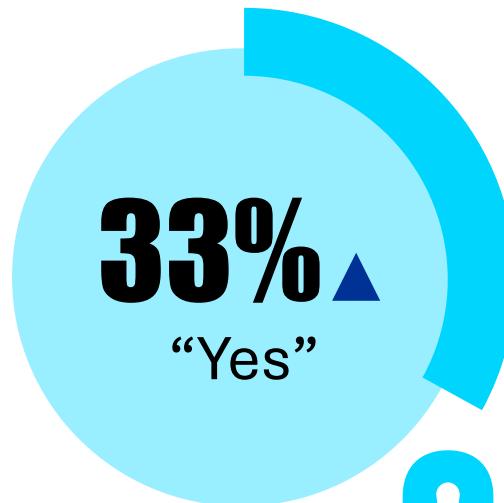
Most are not comfortable with a PCP managing their post-treatment care, citing lack of expertise and knowledge compared to an oncologist.

Would you be willing to have a primary care provider manage the post-treatment care for you?

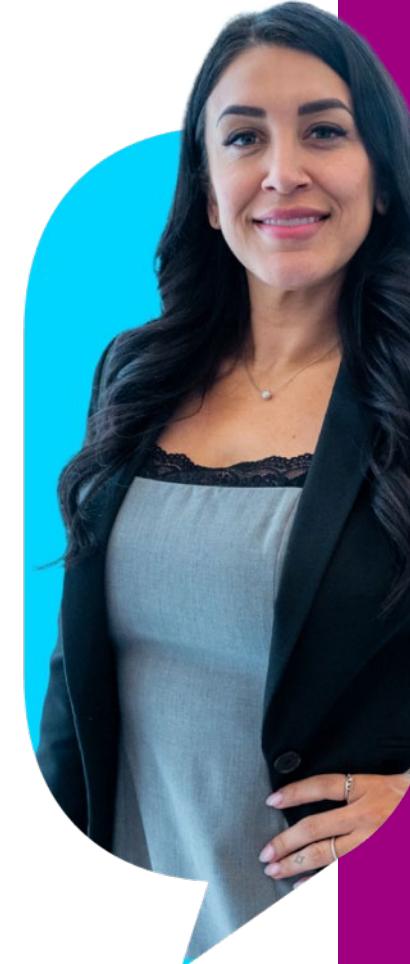
(asked of those NOT seeing a PCP)



Patients



**Cancer Nation
Connected**



What, if any, concerns do you have about a PCP managing post-treatment care?

*“Primary care physicians **do not have the experience of oncologists**. I’m not confident that a recurrence would be caught early enough for treatment to be effective.”*

*“It doesn’t make sense to have her take over the post-treatment when **the oncology team know more** about cancer and have the expertise to care for me.”*

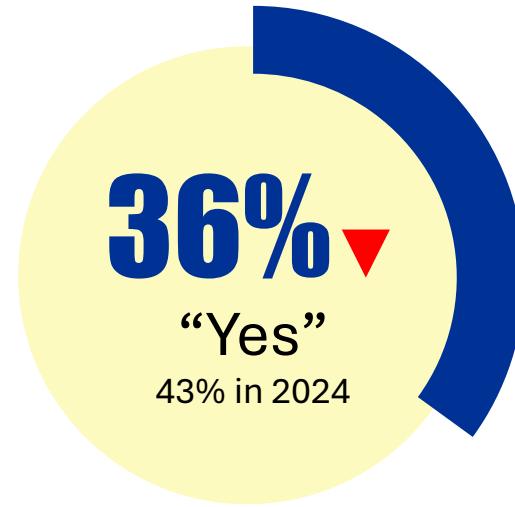
*“My old **primary care provider** was **negligent and misdiagnosed** my cancer for an entire year. He ruined my trust for primary care providers at this time.”*

“Not sure how up-to-date they are with cancer and the type I had.”

Survivorship Care Plans

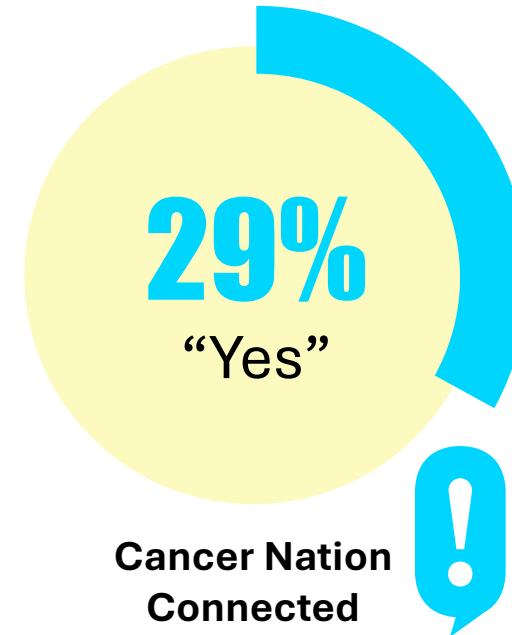
Almost all patients who remember receiving a survivorship plan say it was helpful, but just a third say they have a plan.

After treatment, some survivors get a care plan (sometimes called a survivorship care plan) that provides information about what to expect after treatment and recommendations on care and lifestyle. Did your health care team provide a care plan that helps/helped you understand what to expect after treatment?



Patients

My plan has been helpful. **YES** 97% **VERY** 62%



Cancer Nation
Connected

YES 90% **VERY** 46%

Survivorship Care Plan Interest

8-in-10 of those currently in-treatment are interested in a survivorship care plan; over half are very interested.

Interest in a Survivorship Care Plan *among those currently in treatment*

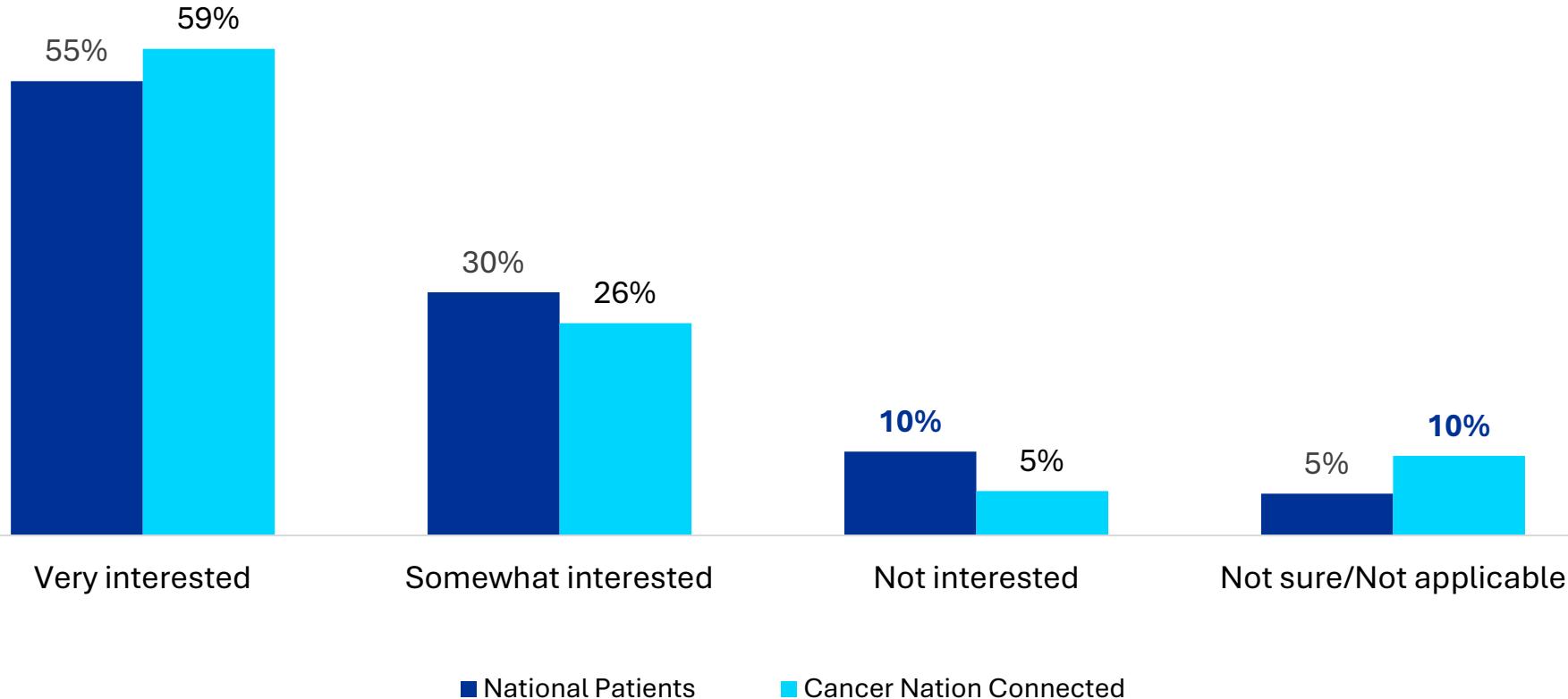
85%

of Patients and
Cancer Nation
Connected are
interested

Interest

higher among

- Younger (18-39)
- Chronic condition
- Employed
- Parents



Survivorship Care Plans

Patients are currently receiving care plans as a printout and discussing it with their doctors, which aligns with preferences.

How was your care plan provided?/How would you prefer a care plan be provided?

	Post Treatment Received Plan	Post Treatment Did Not Receive Plan	In Treatment Interested in Plan
On paper, as a printout or hard copy in person	65%	49%	44%
Through a discussion/conversation	55%	45%	48%
Via a patient portal	22%	22%	37%
Digitally/electronically in some other way	11%	13%	16%
Via email	7%	17%	30%
In the mail	4%	13%	18%

Survivorship Plan Preferred Timing

More express preference for receiving a plan at or near the end of treatment, but there's strong support for early introduction and ongoing updates.

(less common but strongly voiced)

Beginning of treatment



- At diagnosis or early in treatment
- Helps set expectations, reduce anxiety, and provide a roadmap early on

"At the beginning of the diagnosis. Shifting the mindset from a date and time stamp on a cancer patient to building a pathway to long term survivorship."

Ongoing and updated throughout treatment



- A living document that starts early and is updated at key milestones (diagnosis, mid-treatment, end of treatment, and beyond)
- Survivorship needs evolve over time; continuous updates ensure relevance

"I think it's an ongoing process. It should start at time of diagnosis, updated regularly throughout treatment, and then a final copy given at the day of last treatment/last regular appt with onc team."

(most common answer)

End/Near end of treatment



- Patients are less overwhelmed and ready to focus on next steps
- Allows time to prepare questions and plan for transition without feeling abandoned

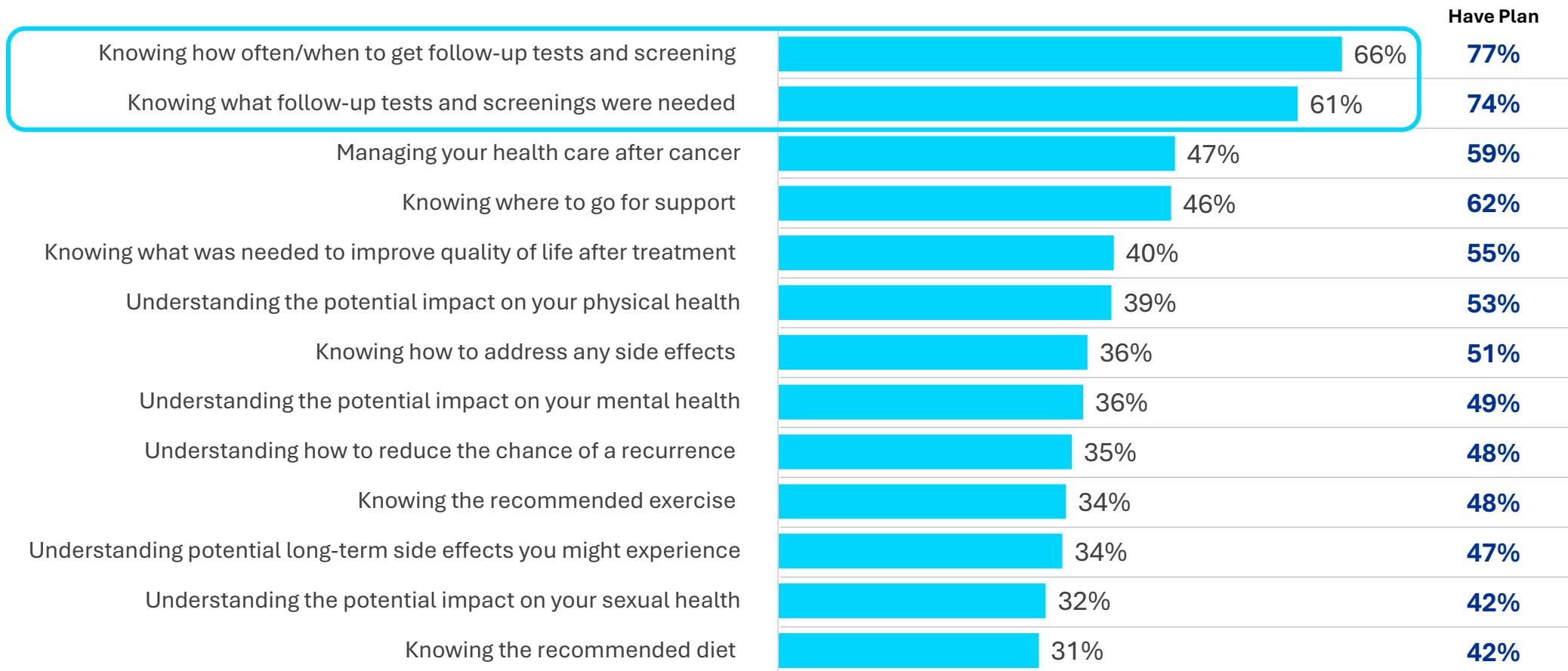
"I think the right time is when you complete treatment — after treatment is complete. You feel so lost, like you are back to normal, and you feel completely lost as no one is telling you what to do next."

Confidence Levels Across Key Survivorship Areas

Patients are most confident about follow-up testing but confidence in other areas drops precipitously. Those with a survivorship plan are significantly more confident in all areas.

When you completed treatment, how confident were you about each of the following?

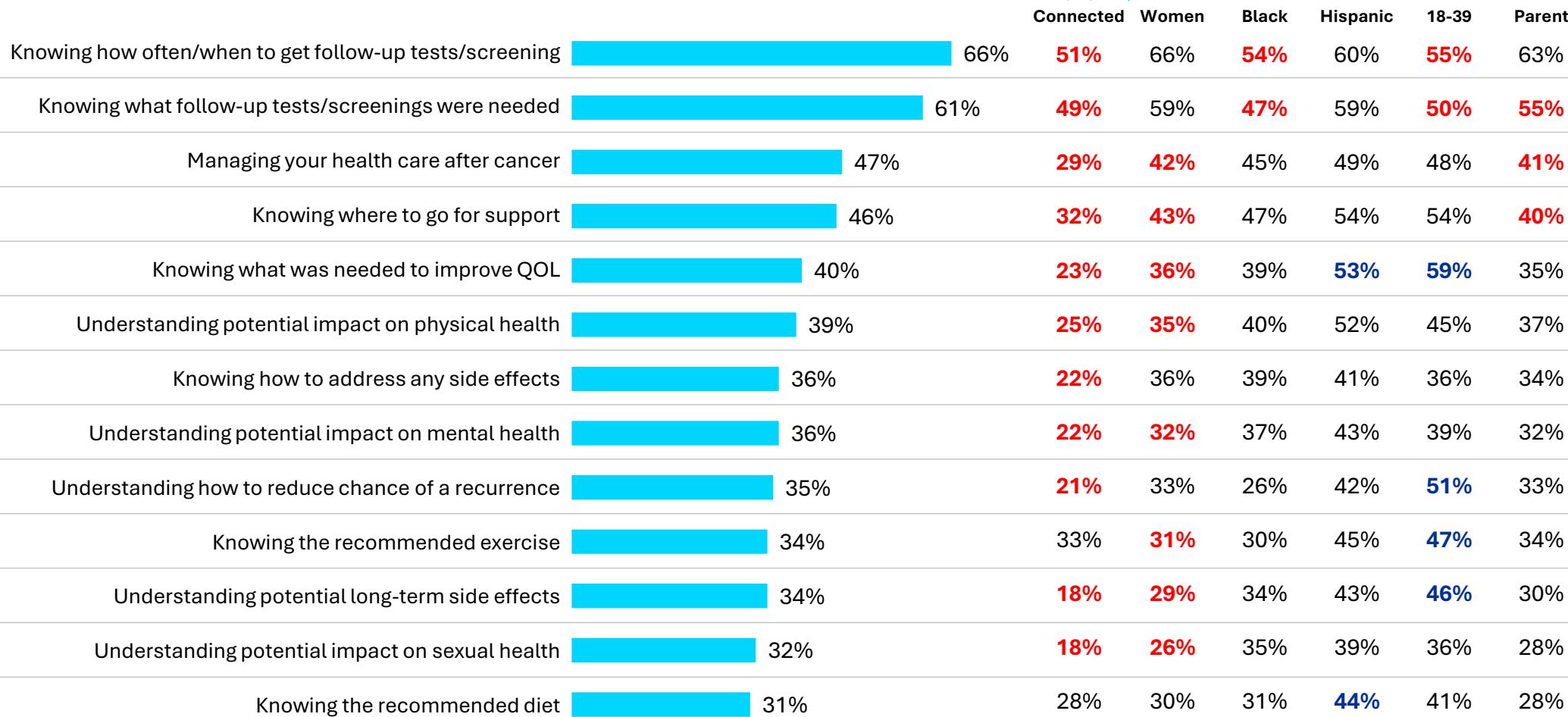
% Very confident



Confidence Levels Across Key Survivorship Areas

Women and parents were less confident in various areas. Younger Patients were more confident in improving quality of life, exercising, and understanding their long-term side effects.

Very Confident After Completing Treatment



SECTION 6

FINANCIAL IMPACTS AND INSURANCE CHALLENGES

Top Financial, Physical, and Mental Health Concerns

Patients are concerned about a myriad of issues, and their worries have only grown since 2022, particularly emotional and financial concerns.

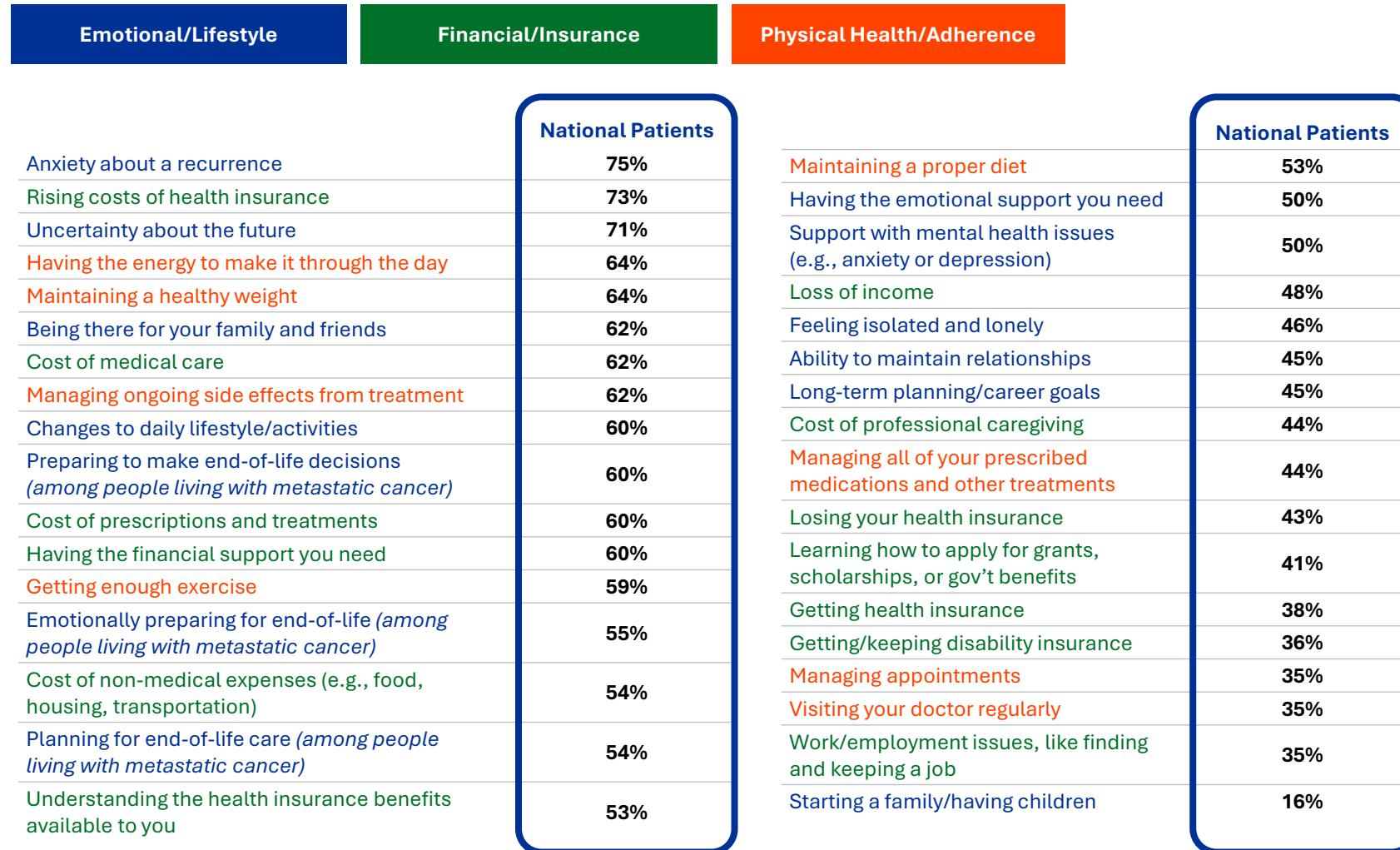
Below are several issues and concerns that cancer patients and survivors might have. How concerned are you, personally, about each? (very/somewhat)

Emotional/Lifestyle		Financial/Insurance		Physical Health/Adherence	
Anxiety about a recurrence	75% 	Rising costs of health insurance	73% 	Having energy for day	64% 
Uncertainty about the future	71% 	Cost of medical care	62% 	Maintaining healthy weight	64%
Being there for family/friends	62% 	Cost of prescriptions	60% 	Managing side effects	62% 
Changes to daily life/activities	60% 	Financial support you need	60% 	Getting enough exercise	59% 
Emotional support needed	50% 	Non-medical expenses	54% 	Maintaining proper diet	53%
Mental health support	50% 	Understanding insurance	53% 		
Feeling isolated/lonely	46% 	Loss of income	48% 		

Tracking shown between 2022 and 2025

Financial, Physical and Mental Health Concerns

Under-served audiences (women, younger, patients of color, and parents) over-index on most items.



Concern for
most of these
items is

Higher among

- Completed Treatment
- Cancer Nation Connected
- In-Treatment
- Women
- Younger (18-39)
- Patients of Color
- Parents

Financial and Mental Health Concerns

Patients currently in treatment are more concerned about emotional and financial challenges than those who completed, especially those over 5 years out from treatment.

Emotional/Lifestyle Concerns	Treated 5+ Years Ago	Treated <5 Years Ago	In-Treatment
Anxiety about a recurrence	66%	77%	81%
Uncertainty about the future	62%	70%	83%
Being there for your family and friends	54%	61%	74%
Changes to daily lifestyle/activities	50%	59%	74%
Having the emotional support you need	46%	49%	59%
Support with mental health issues (e.g., anxiety or depression)	42%	49%	64%
Feeling isolated and lonely	39%	44%	60%
Ability to maintain relationships	36%	45%	58%
Long-term planning/career goals	36%	44%	61%
Starting a family/having children	10%	15%	31%

Financial/Insurance Concerns	Treated 5+ Years Ago	Treated <5 Years Ago	In Treatment
Rising costs of health insurance	72%	72%	77%
Cost of medical care	57%	61%	70%
Cost of prescriptions and treatments	53%	59%	69%
Having the financial support you need	53%	59%	70%
Cost of non-medical expenses (e.g., food, housing, transportation)	51%	51%	66%
Understanding the health insurance benefits available to you	51%	50%	62%
Loss of income	46%	45%	60%
Cost of professional caregiving	38%	43%	57%
Losing your health insurance	40%	43%	52%
Learning how to apply for grants, scholarships, or gov't benefits	32%	40%	57%
Getting health insurance	35%	37%	47%
Getting/keeping disability insurance	26%	36%	49%
Work/employment issues, like finding and keeping a job	31%	34%	46%

Financial Impacts

Financial impacts have increased this year with more drawing from savings, applying for government assistance, and delaying treatment and purchases. Younger patients and parents have more financial challenges.

	African 18-39	American Hispanic	In- Stage IV	Co- Treatment	Medicare/ Parent	Advantage
	84%	67%	70%	67%	68%	52%
Spent savings/retirement money to cover your personal living expenses	19%▲	28%	23%	28%	22%	24%
Applied for government financial assistance	17%▲	26%	35%	24%	26%	18%
Borrowed money from family or friends	15%	27%	23%	27%	17%	18%
Delayed a major purchase (house, car, etc.)	13%▲	22%	12%	21%	9%	18%
Received help with food or housing	12%	22%	20%	19%	16%	16%
Delayed or reduced payments to credits cards or loans	11%	11%	13%	12%	13%	13%
Delayed a major life event (marriage, trip, starting family, etc.)	10%	25%	16%	20%	11%	14%
Had difficulty affording prescription drugs	10%	27%	11%	17%	10%	14%
Applied for co-pay assistance from drug manufacturer/non-profit	9%	15%	6%	13%	15%	10%
Delayed treatment to get insurance authorization/approval	8%▲	18%	13%	11%	5%	11%
Had to sell property or belongings to cover your personal expenses	6%	15%	8%	9%	7%	8%
Applied for grants or scholarships to help with your personal medical and...	6%▲	17%	5%	16%	10%	11%
Had trouble getting insurance to cover tests/screenings	6%	14%	9%	8%	6%	7%
Stopped, took less than, or switched meds b/c of cost	5%	12%	4%	7%	4%	6%
Asked for rent or mortgage relief	5%	15%	8%	11%	6%	7%
Started a GoFundMe or similar campaign	4%	10%	4%	7%	5%	6%
Lost your insurance coverage	3%	6%	2%	1%	3%	4%
Declared bankruptcy	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%

Source= National Patients (n=1305); Cancer Nation Connected Patients (n=703)

52%▲

+12 from 2024

National patients impacted financially

76%!
▲

+10 from 2024

Cancer Nation Connected impacted financially

Insurance Challenges

A third of patients faced at least one issue with their insurance during treatment, although there wasn't one specific challenge dealt with by a majority. Those currently in-treatment are more likely to report challenges.

	National Patients	Treated 5+ Years Ago	Treated <5 Years Ago	In-Treatment
I had high out-of-pocket costs	15%	12%	15%	19%
My doctor had to fight insurance co. to get the treatment I needed	9%	6%	10%	16%
My treatment was delayed	7%	4%	7%	13%
I had to fight my insurance company to get the treatment I needed	7%	6%	6%	12%
I was forced to choose a specific treatment location b/c of insurance coverage	6%	4%	6%	12%
I was forced to choose a specific treatment b/c of insurance coverage	5%	2%	4%	11%
I had to change my doctor because of insurance coverage	3%	1%	4%	6%
My treatment was denied	2%	1%	2%	2%
Other	2%	4%	1%	2%
Have not experienced any of the above due to insurance issues	60%	64%	63%	46%
I did/do not have insurance during my cancer treatment	8%	10%	7%	7%

32%

of patients experienced **at least one** issue with their insurance during treatment

Insurance Challenges

Patients with private insurance are more likely to experience challenges, particularly high costs and fighting with the insurance company. Medicare patients fare better.

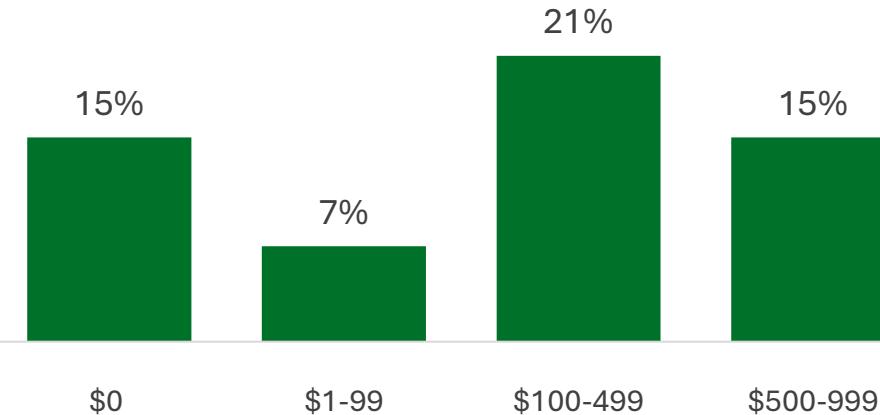
	Private Insurance	Public Insurance	Medicare/ Medicare Adv.	Medicaid
Experienced at least one issue with their insurance during treatment	42%	26%	24%	33%
I had high out-of-pocket costs	23%	10%	11%	5%
My doctor had to fight insurance co. to get the treatment I needed	14%	6%	6%	10%
My treatment was delayed	9%	7%	5%	11%
I had to fight my insurance company to get the treatment I needed	10%	5%	5%	5%
I was forced to choose a specific treatment location b/c of insurance coverage	9%	4%	3%	7%
I was forced to choose a specific treatment b/c of insurance coverage	6%	5%	4%	7%
I had to change my doctor because of insurance coverage	5%	3%	3%	4%
My treatment was denied	2%	2%	2%	3%
Other	2%	2%	2%	4%
Have not experienced any of the above due to insurance issues	52%	66%	68%	60%

Out-of-Pocket Costs

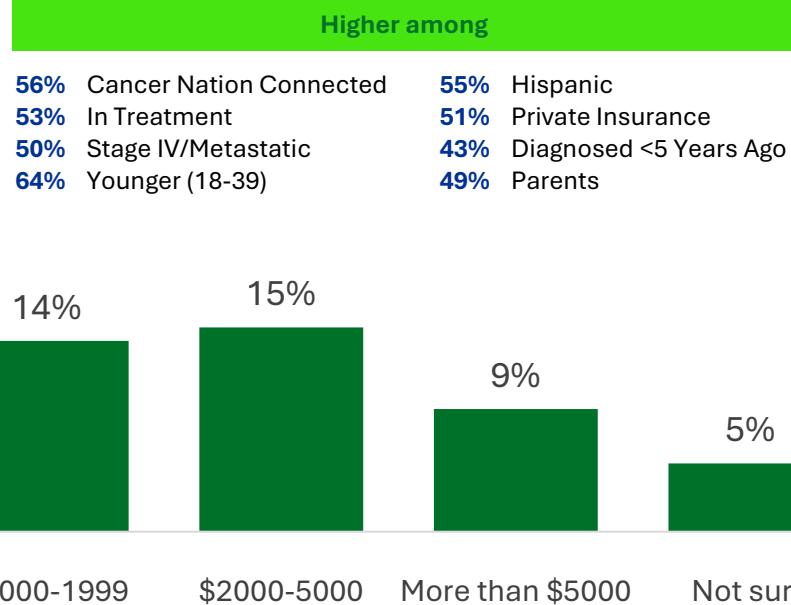
A third report spending more than \$1,000 out-of-pocket for their medical care in the last year. This is higher among patients with private insurance, diagnosed more recently, and Stage IV/Metastatic.

Within the last 12 months, how much have you paid in out-of-pocket costs for medical care?

58% spent <\$1,000 out-of-pocket



37% spent \$1,000+ out-of-pocket



72%

“Yes”

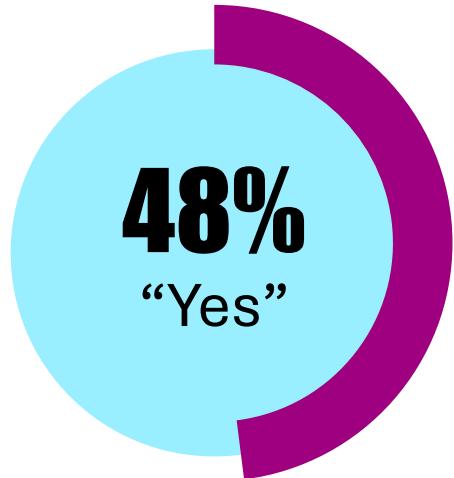
Are you aware that \$2,000 is the total maximum out-of-pocket cost patients will need to pay for their covered Part D drugs?

Among Medicare Patients

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

Only half of Medicare patients are aware of the payment plan, and even less are enrolled. A third did not enroll because their annual drug costs are already low.

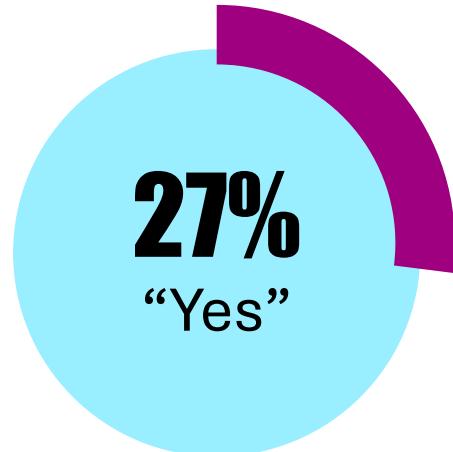
(Among Medicare Patients)



And are you aware of the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan that allows you to spread your prescription drug costs over 12 months?

! 60%

Cancer Nation
Connected



Are you enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

! 27%

Which of the following describe WHY you did not enroll in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

My annual drug costs are low	35%
Didn't know about the Plan	21%
I don't want to change how I pay for prescriptions	14%
My drug costs are the same each month	12%
I get help from other saving program/s	8%
Didn't know how to enroll in the Plan	5%
Was confused about out-of-pocket costs	3%
Did not understand how to make payments	1%
Something else	21%
Not sure	5%

Trust in Care vs. Satisfaction in Care

While most survivors continue to **trust their doctors**, that trust is diminishing, especially among younger and underserved patients. At the same time, **satisfaction with care**, while still high, has declined across nearly every stage of the cancer journey. Greater financial strains and more patients struggling with mental health issues are the biggest drivers of the decrease in satisfaction.

Mental Health & Loneliness

Emotional wellbeing remains a crisis point. **One in three patients experiences depression or anxiety** during treatment, and just a third of those feel adequately supported in managing mental health. While patients turn most often to family and friends for support, few report meaningful mental health help from their care teams. Cancer's mental health toll remains invisible in too many care settings, leaving survivors anxious, isolated, and exhausted.

Treatment Side Effects

Over **nine in ten patients experience side effects**, yet few feel their care teams were *very helpful* in managing them. And these side effects don't always end when treatment does; they shape survivors' ability to work, parent, and live fully. Whole person cancer care demands attention to the long shadow side effects cast.

Research & Politics

Survivors overwhelmingly believe cancer research benefits them (9 in 10). At the same time, **more than half also believe research is influenced by politics**. This skepticism underscores a growing crisis of trust—not in science itself, but in the systems that fund and communicate it. This is an urgent call for transparency, accessibility, and survivor-centered research communication.

Key Takeaways

Financial Toxicity

Financial distress has reached alarming levels. **Half of all survivors report at least one financial hardship** tied to their diagnosis, a 12-point increase from 2024. The **rising cost of health insurance** is now the number-one financial concern. For many, cancer care doesn't just threaten health—it threatens stability.

Insurance & Prior Authorization

Insurance remains both a lifeline and a barrier. A quarter say insurance influenced their treatment choices. One in three patients encountered at least one insurance issue during treatment, most often denials, delays, or excessive out-of-pocket costs, often compounding both physical and emotional distress. Cancer care must never depend on the fine print of an insurance policy.

Survivorship Care Plans

Despite years of advocacy, **only one in three (36%) survivors reports receiving a survivorship care plan**—down from 43% last year. Yet the impact of these plans is undeniable. Most survivors do not feel prepared in most aspects of managing their care post-treatment, but those who have a plan are significantly more confident managing their health, side effects, and mental wellbeing after treatment. Survivorship care planning remains one of the clearest, most actionable paths to improving post-treatment quality of life.

The Bottom Line

Across every theme the message is clear: survivors are surviving, but too many are not *thriving*.

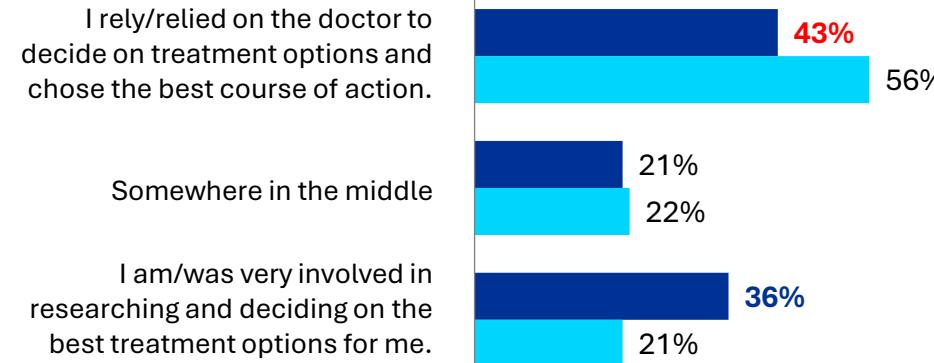
This year's findings reaffirm why we exist: We need a **Cure for Care**—care that sees, treats, and covers the whole person, not just the cancer.

APPENDIX A

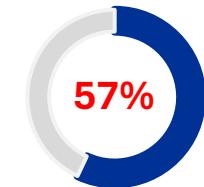
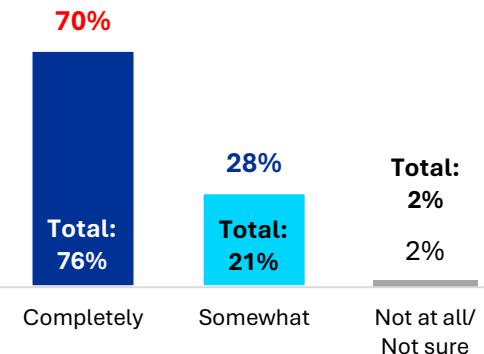
SURVEY PARTICIPANT PROFILES

Patient Profile: Younger Cohort (Age 18-39)

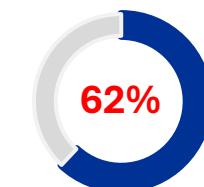
Decision-Making



How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

28% 19%

Borrowed money from family or friends

27% 15%

Had difficulty affording prescription drugs

27% 10%

Top 3 Concerns



Anxiety about a recurrence

85% 75%

Cost of non-medical expenses

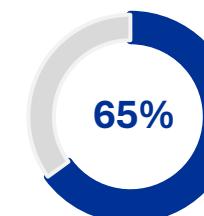
85% 54%

Rising costs of health insurance

84% 73%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 11% Total: 7%
- Good: 35% Total: 46%
- Fair: 39% Total: 38%
- Poor: 14% Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

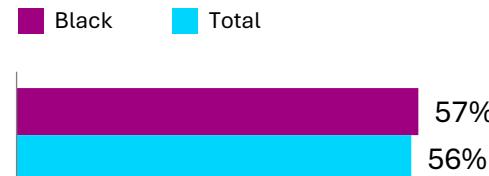
- 25% High OOP costs
- 24% Dr. fought company
- 22% Treatment delayed



Patient Profile: Black Patients

Decision-Making

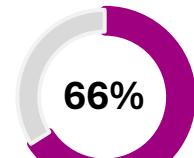
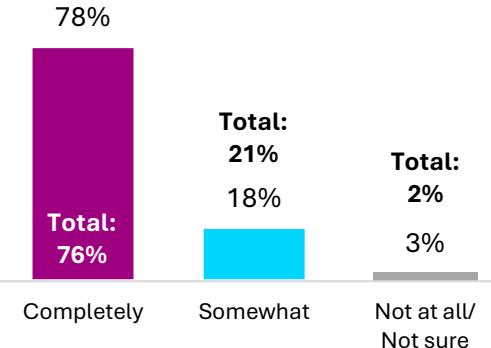
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



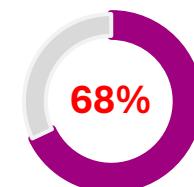
Somewhere in the middle

I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Applied for government financial assistance

35% 17%

Borrowed money from family or friends

23% 15%

Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

23% 19%

Top 3 Concerns



Anxiety about a recurrence

77% 75%

Changes to daily lifestyle/activities

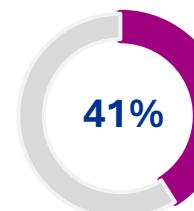
74% 60%

Uncertainty about the future

73% 71%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 5%
Total: 7%
- Good: 45%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 43%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 7%
Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

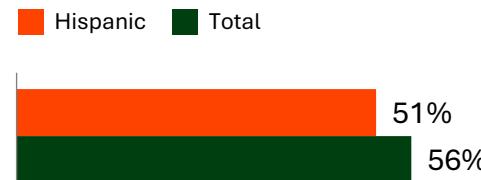
- 13% Had to fight company
- 11% Specific location forced
- 11% Treatment delayed



Patient Profile: Hispanic Patients

Decision-Making

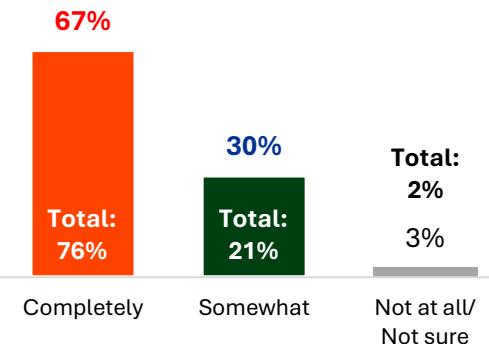
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



Somewhere in the middle

I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

28% 19%

Borrowed money from family or friends

27% 15%

Applied for government financial assistance

24% 17%

Top 3 Concerns



Anxiety about a recurrence

84% 75%

Uncertainty about the future

82% 71%

Managing ongoing side effects from treatment

81% 62%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 11%
Total: 7%
- Good: 39%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 44%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 6%
Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

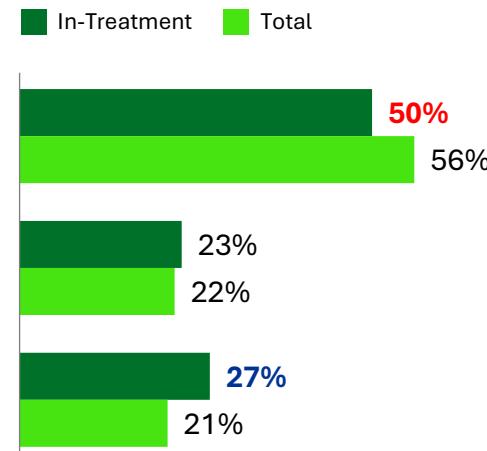
- 21% High OOP costs
- 17% Dr. fight company
- 14% Treatment delayed



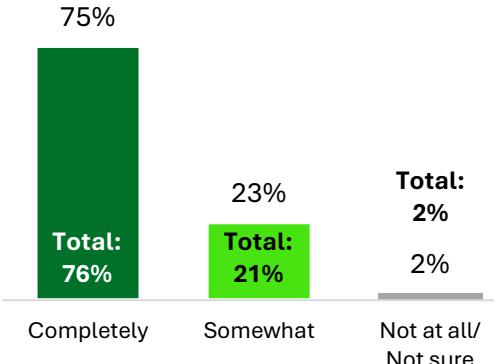
Patient Profile: In-Treatment

Decision-Making

I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

Top 3 Financial Impacts

	In-Treatment	Total
--	--------------	-------

Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

24% 19%

Applied for government financial assistance

18% 17%

Delayed a major purchase

18% 13%

Top 3 Concerns

	In-Treatment	Total
--	--------------	-------

Uncertainty about the future

83% 71%

Managing ongoing side effects from treatment

82% 62%

Anxiety about a recurrence

81% 75%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 4%
Total: 7%
- Good: 36%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 46%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 13%
Total: 9%



Top Insurance Issues:

- 19% High OOP costs
- 16% Dr. fight company
- 13% Treatment delayed



Patient Profile: LGBTQ+

Decision-Making

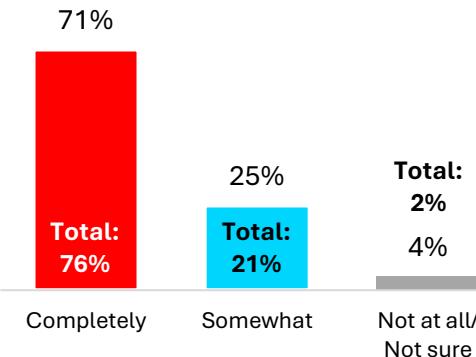
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



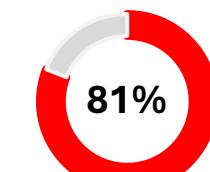
Somewhere in the middle

I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Borrowed money from family or friends

Applied for government financial assistance

Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

Top 3 Concerns



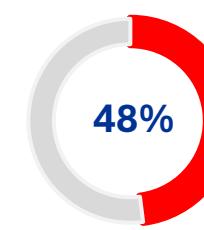
Anxiety about a recurrence

Uncertainty about the future

Rising costs of health insurance

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 6%
Total: 7%
- Good: 39%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 44%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 10%
Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

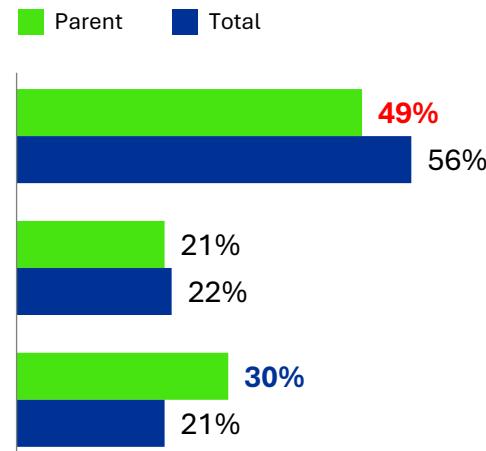
- 20% High OOP costs
- 17% Dr. fought company
- 16% Treatment delayed



Patient Profile: Parents

Decision-Making

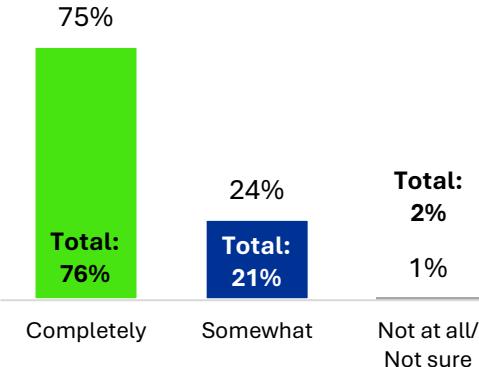
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



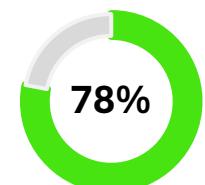
Somewhere in the middle

I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

24% 19%

Applied for government financial assistance

21% 17%

Borrowed money from family or friends

20% 15%

Top 3 Concerns



Anxiety about a recurrence

84% 75%

Rising costs of health insurance

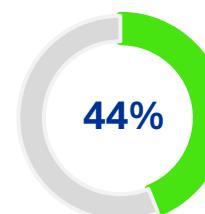
82% 73%

Uncertainty about the future

80% 71%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 8%
Total: 7%
- Good: 43%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 39%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 10%
Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

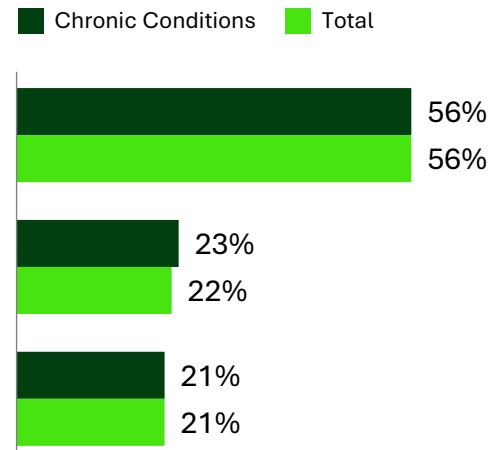
- 20% High OOP costs
- 15% Dr. fight company
- 12% I had to fight company



Patient Profile: Patients with Chronic Conditions

Decision-Making

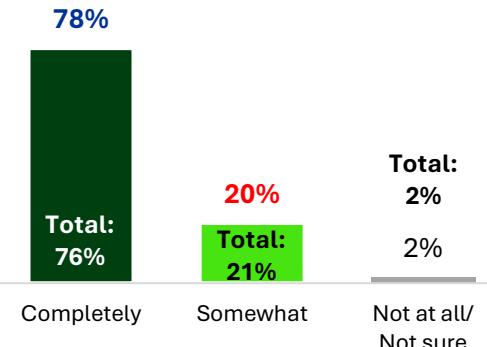
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and chose the best course of action.



Somewhere in the middle

I am/was very involved in researching and deciding on the best treatment options for me.

How much do you/did you **trust the health care team to act in your best interests** during treatment and care?



say they are very satisfied with their treatment and care
Total: 70%



have a chronic condition
Total: 79%

Top 3 Financial Impacts



Spent savings to cover personal living expenses

20% 19%

Applied for government financial assistance

18% 17%

Borrowed money from family or friends

15% 15%

Top 3 Concerns



Anxiety about a recurrence

74% 75%

Rising costs of health insurance

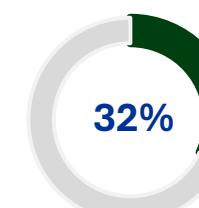
73% 73%

Uncertainty about the future

71% 71%

Current State of Health

- Excellent: 5%
Total: 7%
- Good: 45%
Total: 46%
- Fair: 41%
Total: 38%
- Poor: 10%
Total: 9%



had at least one insurance challenge
Total: 32%

Top Insurance Issues:

- 15% High OOP costs
- 9% Dr. fight company
- 7% Treatment delayed



Financial, Physical and Mental Health Concerns

Under-served audiences (women, younger, patients of color, and parents) over-index on most items.

Emotional/Lifestyle	Financial/Insurance	Physical Health/Adherence	National Sample	Cancer Nation Connected	In-Treatment	Women	18-39	Black	Hispanic	Parent
Anxiety about a recurrence			75%	85%	81%	80%	85%	77%	84%	84%
Rising costs of health insurance			73%	83%	77%	77%	84%	71%	80%	82%
Uncertainty about the future			71%	84%	83%	73%	84%	73%	82%	80%
Having the energy to make it through the day			64%	77%	80%	69%	83%	70%	76%	75%
Maintaining a healthy weight			64%	78%	70%	68%	76%	73%	69%	72%
Being there for your family and friends			62%	74%	74%	64%	80%	73%	78%	75%
Cost of medical care			62%	77%	70%	66%	84%	65%	77%	74%
Managing ongoing side effects from treatment			62%	81%	82%	64%	80%	72%	81%	72%
Changes to daily lifestyle/activities			60%	75%	74%	62%	82%	74%	74%	69%
Preparing to make/making end-of-life decisions (among people living with metastatic cancer)			60%	57%	72%	66%	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*
Cost of prescriptions and treatments			60%	74%	69%	64%	80%	66%	75%	71%
Having the financial support you need			60%	71%	70%	66%	83%	70%	79%	74%
Getting enough exercise			59%	76%	73%	62%	78%	63%	67%	66%
Emotionally preparing for end-of-life (among people living with metastatic cancer)			55%	61%	68%	61%	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*
Cost of non-medical expenses (e.g., food, housing, transportation)			54%	64%	66%	60%	85%	62%	76%	69%
Planning for end-of-life care (among people living with metastatic cancer)			54%	53%	58%	62%	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*	n/a*
Understanding the health insurance benefits available to you			53%	70%	62%	57%	73%	57%	71%	64%
Maintaining a proper diet			53%	72%	68%	57%	76%	63%	75%	64%
Having the emotional support you need			50%	71%	59%	57%	76%	62%	73%	67%
Support with mental health issues (e.g., anxiety or depression)			50%	73%	64%	55%	83%	60%	76%	68%
Loss of income			48%	63%	60%	53%	74%	62%	76%	66%
Feeling isolated and lonely			46%	69%	60%	52%	73%	49%	63%	62%
Ability to maintain relationships			45%	63%	58%	47%	77%	54%	68%	63%
Long-term planning/career goals			45%	62%	61%	47%	82%	65%	69%	61%
Cost of professional caregiving			44%	56%	57%	43%	65%	49%	59%	55%
Managing all of your prescribed medications and other treatments			44%	56%	59%	45%	77%	54%	67%	59%
Losing your health insurance			43%	65%	52%	47%	68%	50%	71%	58%
Learning how to apply for grants, scholarships, or gov't benefits			41%	53%	57%	45%	72%	58%	69%	53%
Getting health insurance			38%	56%	47%	39%	67%	41%	65%	52%
Getting/keeping disability insurance			36%	48%	49%	37%	73%	51%	64%	52%
Managing appointments			35%	52%	50%	39%	67%	46%	57%	49%
Visiting your doctor regularly			35%	53%	46%	38%	65%	42%	57%	50%
Work/employment issues, like finding and keeping a job			35%	53%	46%	37%	73%	50%	69%	51%
Starting a family/having children			16%	30%	31%	13%	63%	28%	40%	29%

2025 Survivorship Survey Sponsors

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