

STATE OF SURVIVORSHIP

SURVEY: 2021

COSTS OF CANCER CARE



NATIONAL COALITION
FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

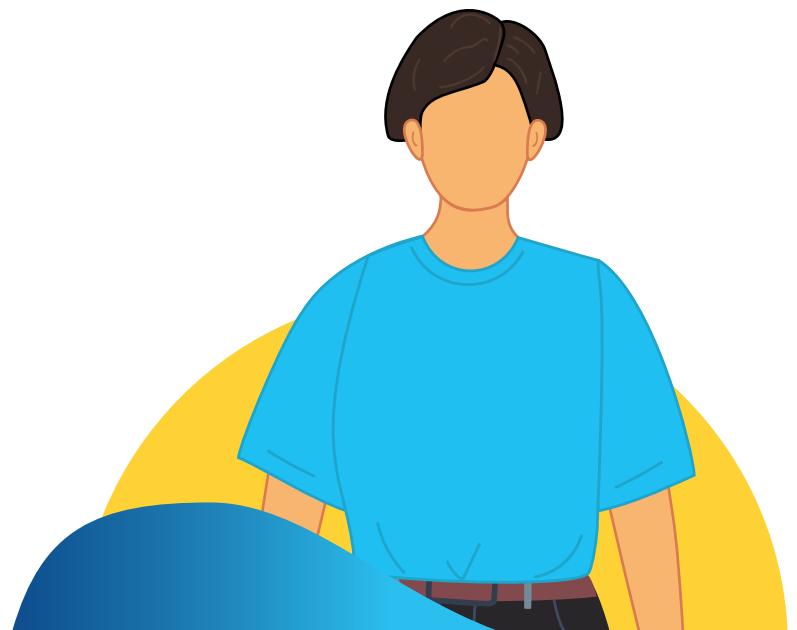
COSTS OF CANCER CARE

When the excruciating pain in Bethany's right arm caused her to pass out while getting dressed, she ended up in the emergency room. The attending physician told her the arm had spontaneously broken because of a lesion on the bone. Eventually diagnosed with multiple myeloma, Bethany quickly discovered the many costs of cancer.

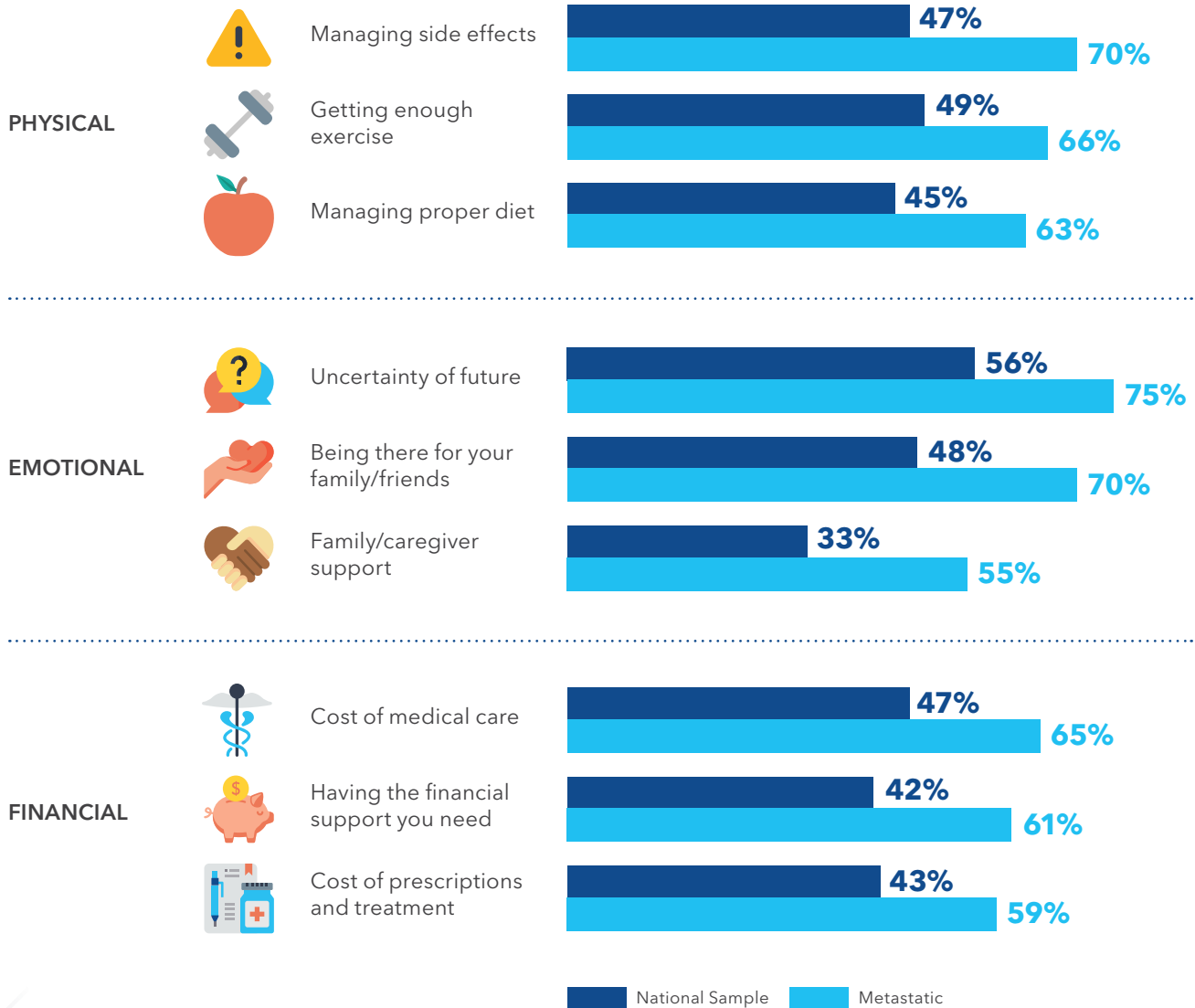
To most, the word "cost" has a financial association. This is, of course, true for cancer patients as 47% of our survey respondents cited the cost of medical care as a concern. But the cost of cancer goes far beyond the financial and insurance concerns for many respondents. A variety of physical and emotional health concerns are also major concerns. Half of our respondents were concerned about simply having enough energy for the day. Over half cited uncertainty about the future as their top concern. For patients with advanced cancer, like Bethany, the emotional strain that comes with an uncertain future is the top concern for 75% of respondents.

47%

Respondents who cited the cost of medical care as a concern.



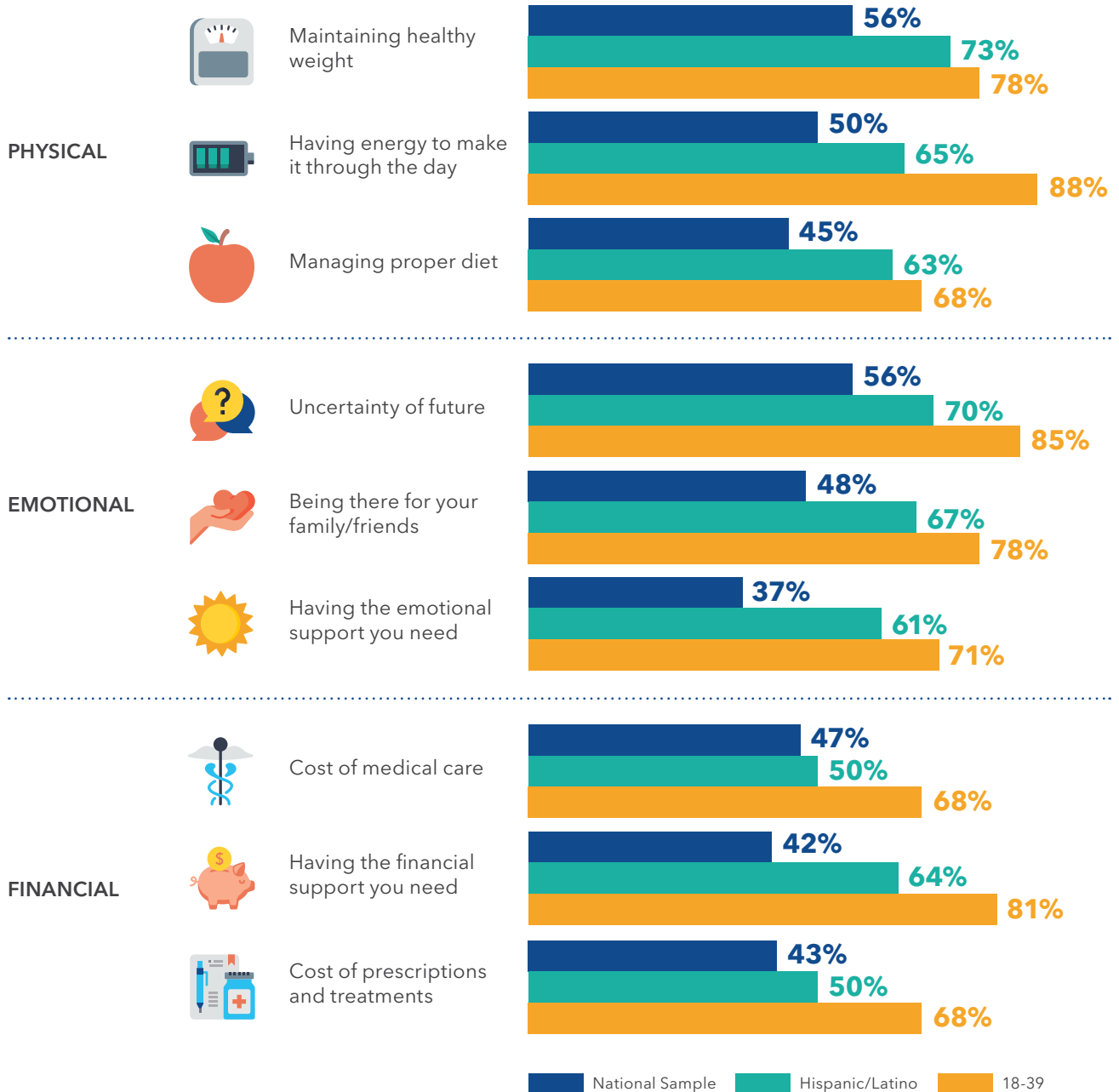
Cancer Survivors' Top Concerns



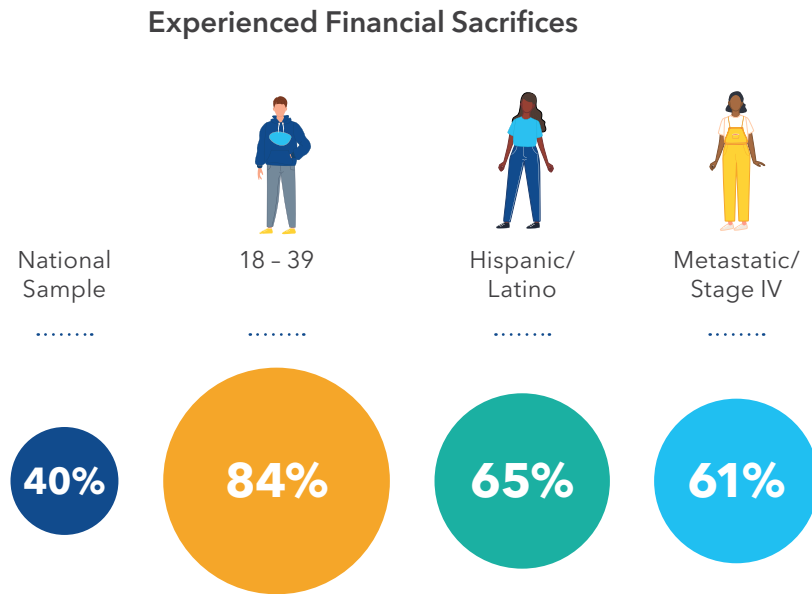
After 25 years of public-school teaching, Bethany was nearing retirement. Teaching was a second career for her, and she loved it dearly. She planned to work for another seven years. However, with a variety of ongoing side effects and physical limitations that caused her to often miss class, she decided to retire. She says she will earn less than half of her full salary moving forward but is grateful she got this far in her life and career before her diagnosis.

Younger (ages 18-39) and Hispanic/Latino respondents have higher physical, emotional, and financial concerns compared to the national sample. Having emotional support, financial support, and the energy to make it through the day rated much higher as concerns for younger and Hispanic/Latino respondents than the national sample.

Hispanic/Latino and Younger Patients Have Higher Concerns than the National Sample



Financial concerns led to changes in behaviors or sacrifices for many respondents. Of the national sample, 40% said they experienced at least one financial sacrifice like spending savings or retirement money for living expenses, delaying a major life event like marriage or having children, delaying a major purchase, or reducing payments to existing debt. We continue to see significant differences in how vulnerable groups experience these financial sacrifices, with 84% of younger patients, 65% of Hispanic/Latino, and 61% of Metastatic/Stage IV patients reporting they experienced at least one of these sacrifices.



The costs of cancer are many. Our survey shows that vulnerable patients are much more likely to experience these costs. The advocacy and work NCCS does is as urgent as ever. Our survey clearly shows we must continue to work with policymakers on equitable solutions to address the physical, financial, and emotional costs of cancer.





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