

STATE OF SURVIVORSHIP

SURVEY: 2021

TREATMENT DURING COVID-19



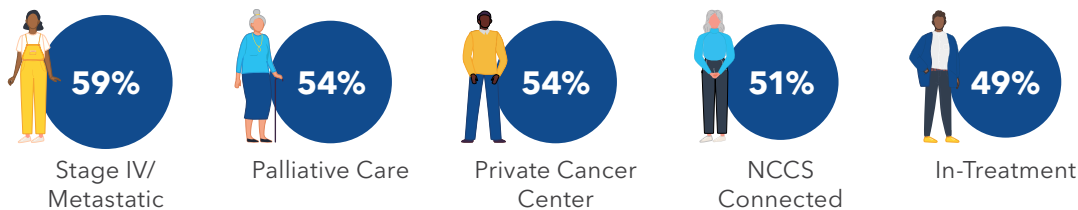
NATIONAL COALITION
FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

TREATMENT DURING COVID-19

As it did with everything else around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic affected care and treatment for cancer patients. Even though cancer centers made significant changes to protocols to ensure patients' safety, the vast majority of cancer patients (82%) believe their quality of care remained the same as before the pandemic, and 8% said their care was better.

The COVID-19 pandemic shifted many health care appointments into the virtual space. Four in ten respondents who had an appointment during the pandemic did so via telehealth services.

Used Telehealth Services

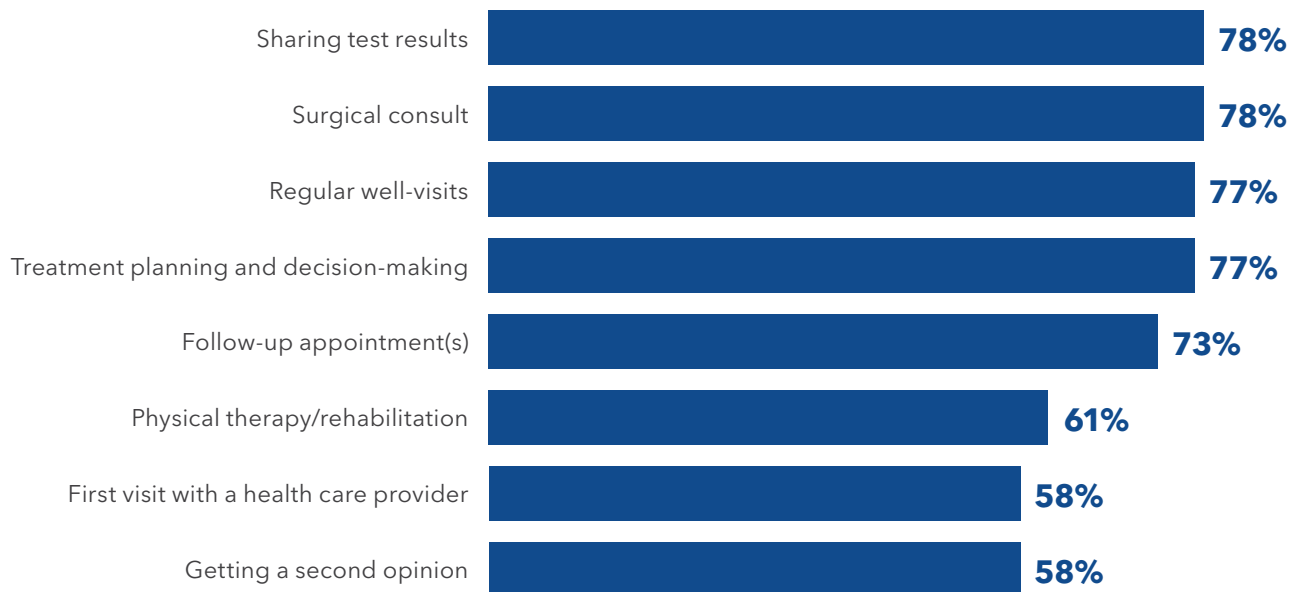


41%
of those with appointments had them via telehealth.



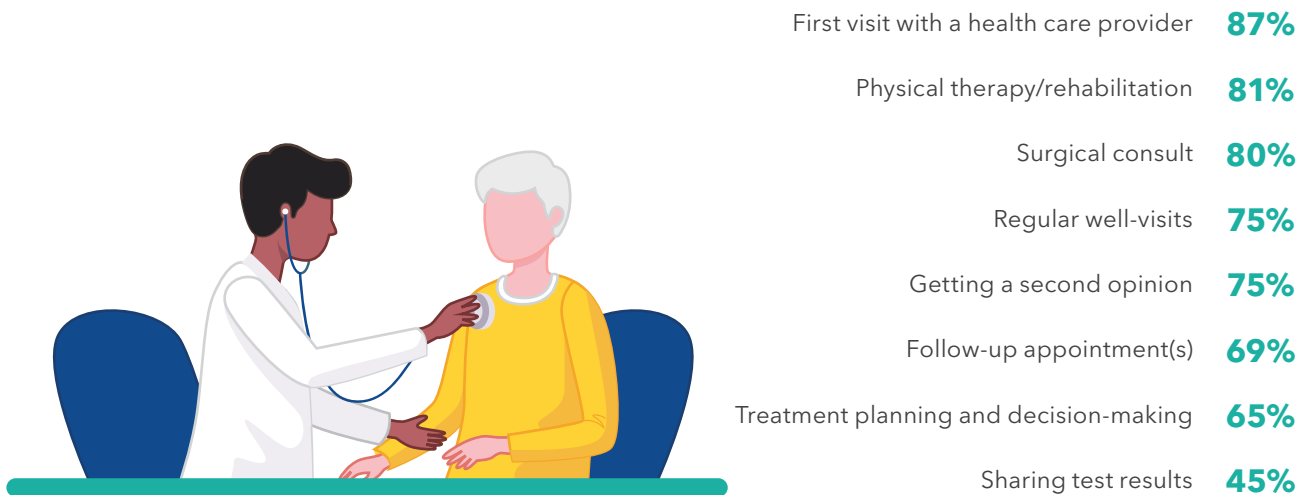
Sentiment on the quality of telehealth appointments varied based on the nature of the appointment. On average, three-quarters of patients rated their telehealth appointments as excellent/very good for follow-up appointments or regular well-visits, treatment planning, and sharing test results. Those numbers dipped to about 60% for appointments with more intricate purposes like physical therapy, getting second opinions, and first-time visits with a health care provider.

Telehealth Appointments Rated as Excellent/Very Good



Despite the relatively high satisfaction with telehealth appointments, the data also show that patients still prefer in-person appointments for most situations.

Preference for In-Person Visits over Telehealth



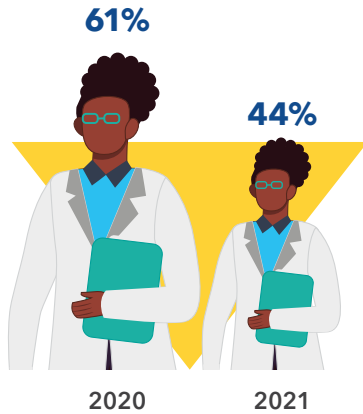
The data on care and treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic does leave room for interpretation in numerous ways.

One of our respondents, Roberto, is a 39-year-old Hispanic male who dealt with breathing and coughing issues for a month before going into his doctor fearing he had COVID-19. He did not have COVID-19, but he did have a tumor in his lung and was diagnosed with Stage II lung cancer. He credits COVID-19 with saving his life.

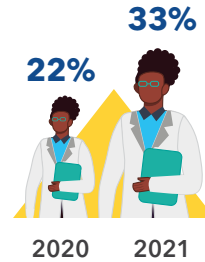
On the other hand, the cancer community at large has acknowledged that regular screenings have been down throughout the pandemic and there is concern about the long-term outlook of excess deaths over the next 10 years due to missed early detections.

The data did show a significant shift in patients' decision making mindset. While a "doctor knows best" mentality about treatment is still dominant, more cancer patients and survivors this year say they were involved in decision-making (up from 22% in 2020 to 33% today). There are also more people who actively researched all they could about their options and were aware about potential side effects from treatment. This could represent a shift to a more informed patient, and/or a response to changes in attitudes about health care during COVID-19.

Shift in Decision Making Mindset from 2020 to 2021



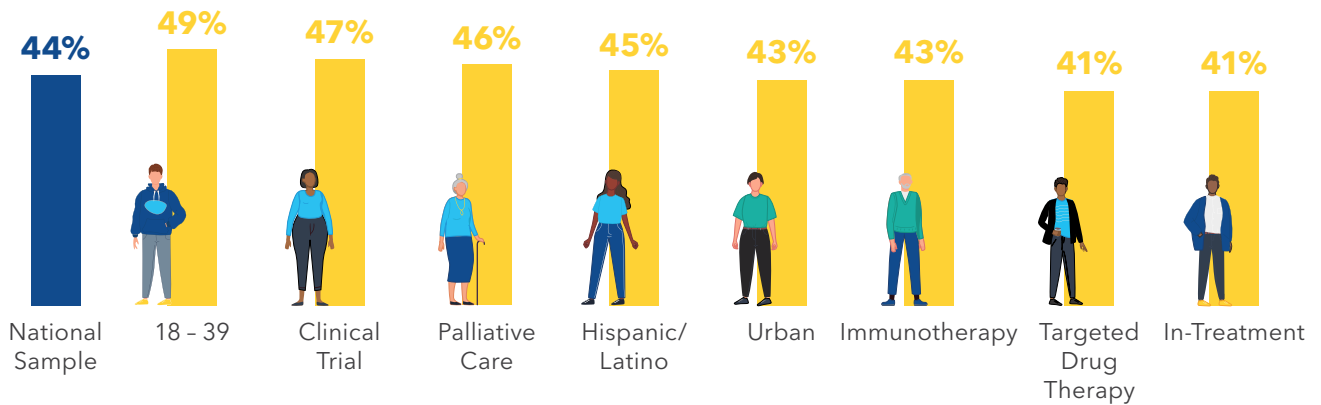
I rely/relied on the doctor to decide on treatment options and choose the best course of action.



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

The data also show several groups even more likely to be heavily involved in deciding their treatment options.

Patients More Likely to Be Involved in Decision-Making



The lingering question is whether the COVID-19 pandemic played a significant role in the needle moving so significantly in this year-over-year data, or whether these mindset shifts are part of a broader trend in health care. We do not believe we can say either way at this time, but it is certainly a trend we will be watching.



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