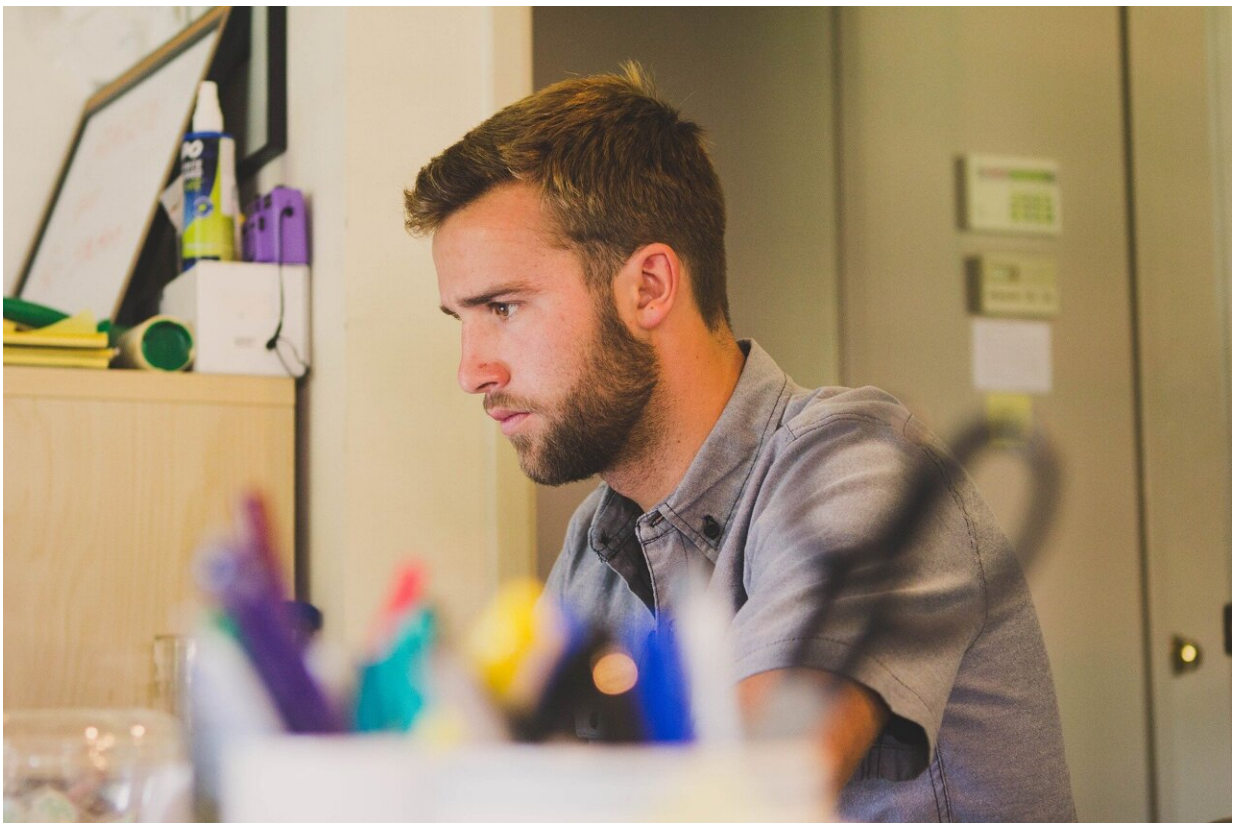


# Lower prevalence of employment seen for survivors of childhood cancer

May 13 2024, by Elana Gotkine

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Adult survivors of childhood cancer have declines in employment and increases in health-related unemployment compared with the general population, according to a [study](#) published online May 10 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Neel S. Bhatt, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort study of five-year cancer [survivors](#) diagnosed at age 20 years or younger between 1970 and 1986 to examine longitudinal trends in employment. Sex-stratified employment status at baseline (2002 to 2004) and follow-up (2014 to 2016) was compared to rates from the general population.

The researchers found that the prevalence of full-time or part-time employment at baseline was 71.3 and 85.3 percent for female and male participants, respectively, and prevalence at follow-up was 64.8 and 77.3 percent, respectively; standardized prevalence ratios declined over time (from 1.01 to 0.94 for women and from 0.96 to 0.92 for men).

There was an increase noted in the prevalence of health-related unemployment (11.6 to 17.2 percent for women; 8.1 to 17.1 percent for men); compared with the general population, the standardized prevalence ratio remained elevated and decreased over time (3.78 to 2.23 for women; 3.12 to 2.61 for men).

Of the survivors who were employed fulltime at baseline, 19.2 and 12.8 percent of [women](#) and men, respectively, experienced a negative employment transition.

"A multidisciplinary approach that includes survivors, [clinicians](#), and employers is likely needed to address long-term [employment](#) needs of cancer survivors," the authors write.

**More information:** Neel S. Bhatt et al, Chronic Health Conditions and Longitudinal Employment in Survivors of Childhood Cancer, *JAMA Network Open* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.10731](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.10731)

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