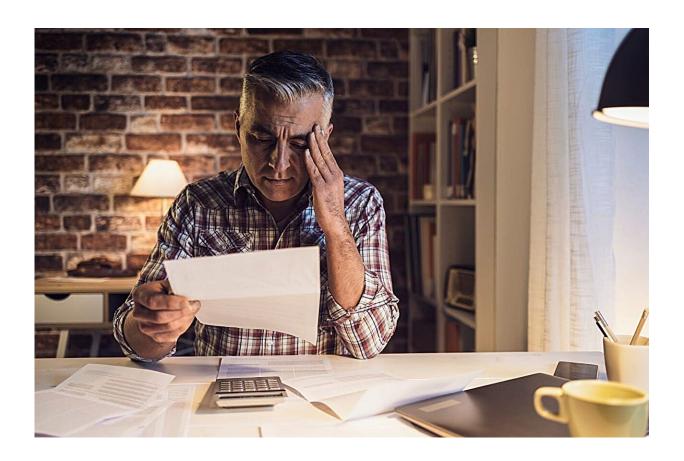


Half of cancer survivors face cancer-related financial hardship

August 28 2024, by Lori Solomon



Half of cancer survivors experience cancer-related financial hardship, according to a research letter <u>published</u> online Aug. 20 in *JAMA Network Open*.



Apoorv Dhir, M.D., from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and colleagues estimated the prevalence of <u>financial hardship</u> among cancer survivors across cancer types. The analysis included responses from 1,212 participants in the 2021 Health Information National Trends Survey- Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results.

The researchers found that when asked about experience of financial hardship, 56.4% responded not at all, 22.1% a little, 15.0 some, and 6.5% a lot. There was variation by cancer type. Higher odds of increased financial hardship were seen with younger age (50 to 59 years: adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 3.66), lower income (\$35,000 to \$74,999: aOR, 3.55), advanced cancer stage (nonlocal: aOR, 1.92), and federal health insurance (Medicare: aOR, 1.43). Each 0.01 increase in the Social Vulnerability Index conferred a lower probability of reporting no financial hardship and a higher probability of reporting a little, some, or a lot of financial hardship.

"Acknowledging the role of community and structural barriers and identifying socially vulnerable populations for targeted interventions represent a potential strategy toward mitigating financial hardship and delivering equitable <u>cancer</u> care," the authors write.

More information: Apoorv Dhir et al, Individual- and Community-Level Risk Factors of Cancer-Related Financial Hardship Among Cancer Survivors, *JAMA Network Open* (2024). DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.29286

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Citation: Half of cancer survivors face cancer-related financial hardship (2024, August 28) retrieved 29 August 2024 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-08-cancer-survivors-financial-hardship.html



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