**NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVOR MONTH**

**JUNE 2023 | QUICK FACTS & RESOURCES**

* A cancer survivor is any person who has been diagnosed with cancer, from the time of their diagnosis through the remainder of their life.
* It is estimated there are nearly 18 million Americans who are cancer survivors, with nearly 142,000 cancer survivors living in Nevada.
* According to the American Cancer Society, more than two-thirds of U.S. cancer survivors were diagnosed five or more years ago, and two-thirds of survivors are age 65 or older.
* An estimated 19% of survivors were diagnosed 20 or more years ago.
* American Cancer Society estimates there are nearly 70,000 cancer survivors ages 14 and under, and another nearly 49,000 survivors ages 15 – 19 in the U.S.
* Uninsured survivors have a lower five-year relative survival rate than those privately insured. This highlights survivor disparities based on access to quality cancer care and inadequate insurance.
* Cancer survivors face a number of diverse short- and long-term side effects as a result of their diagnosis and treatment. These can include damage to the heart and lungs, infertility, recurrent infections, speech or mobility impairment, lymphedema, mental health effects, removal or all or portions of organs and other body parts, and more.
* Cancer pre-habilitation and rehabilitation can significantly improve a survivor’s physical and emotional recovery from diagnosis and treatment.
* Up to half of cancer survivors experience emotional stress from their diagnosis and treatment, but they can improve their survival by getting psychological care.

**MORE DATA**

American Cancer Society offers Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Facts & Figures 2022 – 2024 with national data and cancer-specific details.

<https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/survivor-facts-figures.html>

**SURVIVOR EXPERIENCES**

In 2017, Nevada Cancer Coalition spoke with cancer survivors from across the state about their experiences. The information was compiled in a report, accessible here:

<https://www.nevadacancercoalition.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/NVSurvivorFocusGroups_Report_Final.pdf>

Their thoughts and concerns:

* Some survivors feel a lack of trust and respect with their health care providers, and better communication from those providers and more information on their cancer and treatment would help.
* Survivors want support, from navigators, social workers, and friends and family, as well as from mentor survivors who have had similar experiences.
* Survivors often feel lost when transitioning from oncology care back to primary care at the end of treatment.
* Physical challenges as well as overall health and wellness are ongoing concerns for cancer survivors.
* Information for cancer survivors can be overwhelming and hard to navigate, and survivors find it challenging to find reliable information.

ThriveNV Survivor Stories are available to share at: <https://www.nevadacancercoalition.org/thrivenv/survivor-stories>