



NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVOR MONTH JUNE 2024 | 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 more than 18.1 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.
- Many things can influence cancer survival aside from cancer type and treatment, including:
 - Patient age
 - Cancer stage at diagnosis
 - Co-morbid or competing health conditions
 - Health insurance coverage
 - Financial resources
 - Distance to and type of treatment facility
 - Physician and patient attitudes, beliefs, preferences and biases
 - Low socio-economic status
- 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.
- About half of cancer survivors work during treatment, but many of those who do often miss more days of work or work fewer hours due to treatment. The majority of survivors said continuing to work helps to stay motivated and get their mind off of cancer.
- Cancer survivors face many 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 of 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 for their healthcare providers, and better communication from those providers and more information on their cancer and treatment would help.
- Survivors want support from navigators, social workers, friends and family, and 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>