

THE HIGH COST OF CANCER

And what we can do about it.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Financial Toxicity

Cancer patients don't just struggle with the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. For many patients, they also struggle with the financial repercussions, an effect increasingly referred to as **financial toxicity**.

Fallout

42%* of patients

depleted their assets after **2 years**

38%* of patients

were financially insolvent after **4 years**

*Among 9.5 million U.S. adults ages 50 years or older diagnosed with cancer (2000-2012).

Monetary Costs

Total U.S. expenditure for cancer (2014):
\$87.8 billion

Patient out-of-pocket cost (2014):

\$3.9 billion

Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy rates are 2.65 times higher in cancer survivors. Even survival can be financially ruinous.

2.65 times higher

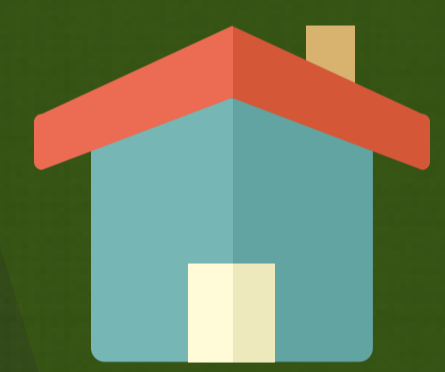
Negative Impact on Behavior

Cancer patients make financial and behavioral adjustments after diagnosis. The forced adjustments often have a **negative impact**, as seen in these behaviors:



Non-adherence to medications

Cutting back on necessities



Opting out of beneficial therapies

Depletion of retirement savings



Accumulation of credit card debt

Negative Impact on Well Being

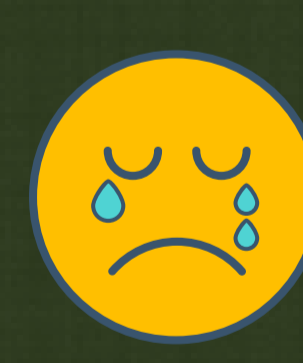
Cancer survivors who experience higher financial toxicity also report:



Greater levels of pain



Greater levels of anxiety



Higher rates of depression

How Legislators Can Help



Create a Medicare cap for cancer treatment costs irrespective of treatment setting



Transition to clinical pathway payment programs



Limit non-ACA compliant short-term health plans



Expand employer support of cancer treatment



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