## ASCO 2020 Cancer Opinions Survey

2020 Key subjects: COVID-19 and Cancer Care, Health Inequities in Cancer Care, Clinical Trial Myths, Key Trends
September 2020

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## Research Methodology

## Mode:

Online survey

## Length:

20 Minutes


## Qualification Criteria:

## General Population

- US residents
- Age 18+


## Cancer Patients

- US residents
- Age 18+
- Ever diagnosed with cancer by a healthcare professional

|  | General Population | Cancer Patients |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sample <br> Size: | *includes $n=162$ cancer patients <br> (natural fallout) | **includes $n=162$ cancer patients from the gen pop natural <br> fallout + an oversample of $n=980$ |
| Field Dates: | July 21 - September 8,2020 |  |

For all US adults age 18+ figures for age by gender, education, region, household size, income, marital status, and employment status were adjusted, as needed to population distributions from the US Census Bureau, separately for Hispanic, Black/African American (not Hispanic) and all other (not Hispanic). Then each race/ethnicity group was combined into an overall total based on their proportion within the US adult population. The adults age 18+ with cancer were weighted separately, as needed, using population distributions from the CDC's NHIS for those diagnosed with cancer, using the same demographic variables as above.

## Report Notes

- Percentages may not add up to $100 \%$ due to weighting and/or computer rounding and the acceptance of multiple responses.
- Unless otherwise noted, results for the Total (general population) are displayed.
- Statistical significance testing (at $95 \%$ confidence) is included where applicable - significant differences are noted throughout the report with letters (A,B,C, etc.).
- In certain instances, some subgroups may be too small to report quantitatively for PR. Anything too small to report quantitatively is noted with *Caution: small base ( $n<100$ ). Results should be interpreted as directional only. Subgroup sample sizes that are even smaller (<50 or <30), are noted with **Caution, very/extremely small base ( $n<50 / 30$ ), results should be interpreted as qualitative in nature.
- Colors and icons differentiate which audience is being represented within the detailed findings as shown below.


[^0]
## Key Findings

## The Pandemic Takes Its Toll on Patients and Prevention

Most patients are limiting contact with others because of COVID-19, leaving caregivers wishing they could do more

- Most patients ( $81 \%$ ) are limiting their contact with others because they are scared of getting COVID-19 and half (49\%) feel they have had to make a lot of sacrifices to their daily life because of their heightened risk for COVID-19
- Roughly two-thirds of family members and caregivers wish there was more they could do to support their loved one, both practically ( $69 \%$ and $71 \%$, respectively) and emotionally ( $67 \%$ and $69 \%$, respectively)
- For caregivers whose loved one's cancer is active or in partial remission, this is especially true - $84 \%$ wish there was more they could do to help and $77 \%$ wish there was more they could do to emotionally support their loved one during the pandemic

The pandemic causes major delays in cancer screenings - meanwhile, many are not taking basic steps of cancer prevention

- Nearly one in four adults ( $24 \%$ ) delayed or cancelled routine cancer screening tests because of the pandemic
- Among those who delayed or cancelled, two-thirds of the time ( $66 \%$ ) it was the patient who chose to delay/cancel
- More than six in $10(63 \%)$ who delayed or skipped their appointment(s) are concerned about being behind on their cancer screening(s)
- At the same time, fewer than half of Americans report that they take important preventive actions to reduce their cancer risk such as using sunblock (48\%), maintaining a healthy weight (47\%), and limiting alcohol consumption (42\%)


## Awareness of Inequities Exists, but Unevenly Across Races

## Americans acknowledge there are inequities - but - most are unaware of the impact race has on cancer care and survival

- Nearly three in five (59\%) agree racism can impact the care a person receives within the U.S. healthcare system
- And, half of Americans (53\%) feel Black Americans are less likely to have access to the same quality of cancer care as White Americans
- Despite this, only around a quarter of Americans (24\%) say a person's race status affects the likelihood they will get the best possible cancer care and less than one in five (19\%) believe race has an impact on a person's likelihood of surviving cancer


## People of color are far more likely to be aware of inequities

- Non-white adults are more likely to agree racism can impact care within US health system (Black 76\%, Hispanic 70\%, and Asian (66\%) compared to $53 \%$ of White adults)
- And, $71 \%$ of Black adults say that Blacks are less likely to have access to the same quality of care as Whites, compared to $47 \%$ of White adults
- Black and Hispanic adults are more likely than White adults to say race impacts both access to the best possible cancer care (Black $41 \%$ and Hispanic $28 \%$ compared to $20 \%$ of White adults) as well as survival (Black $27 \%$ and Hispanic $22 \%$ compared to $16 \%$ of White adults)


## KEY FINDINGS

## Most Do Not Understand Realities of Clinical Trials

## There is a lack of understanding of clinical trials - even among cancer patients

- Only about half of U.S. adults (53\%) say they are knowledgeable about clinical trials
- Even among those who have/had cancer, only 1 in 10 (11\%) report being very knowledgeable
- Most adults ( $91 \%$ ) feel that clinical trials involve some risk with about 1 in $5(21 \%)$ believing there is a lot of risk
- But, nearly half of people (48\%) believe cancer patients who participate in clinical trials are not receiving the best possible care and are just part of an experiment
- Further, three quarters of Americans (75\%), including $87 \%$ of cancer patients, believe that some people who participate in cancer clinical trials receive a placebo rather than actual treatment

Despite a lack of understanding, most Americans say they would be willing to participate in a cancer clinical trial

- Three in four Americans (75\%) say they would be willing to participate in a clinical trial for a cancer treatment if they had cancer
- And, nearly three quarters of adults (74\%) agree participating in a clinical trail is worth the risks for benefit of greater good
- That said, two-thirds (67\%) say they wish they knew more about how clinical trials worked


## Key Trended General Population Findings

## Findings signal an increase in understanding of key risk factors - but may not actually be taking meaningful steps to reduce cancer risk

- When it comes to risk, people are more likely to say that they think smoking e-cigarettes ( $53 \%$ up from $42 \%$ in 2018) and alcohol ( $34 \%$ up from $30 \%$ in 2017) increases a person's risk of getting cancer
- Adults are more likely to say that they care deeply and incorporate cancer prevention into their daily life ( $27 \%$ vs. $24 \%$ in 2019)
- They are also more likely to say they talked with their doctor about what they can do to reduce their cancer risk ( $22 \%$ vs. $18 \%$ in 2019) - but at the same time are more likely to say they thought they had cancer based on information they found online ( $12 \% \mathrm{vs} .9 \%$ in 2019)
- However, when it comes to making actual changes, the only significant change in behavior was an increase in taking supplements to reduce risk ( $50 \%$ vs. $44 \%$ in 2017-2019) and also a drop in concern about getting cancer ( $54 \%$ down from $57 \%$ in 2019 and $63 \%$ in 2017) - which may be due to an increased focus on overall health due to the pandemic


## Knowledge about the dangers of e-cigarettes seem to be growing though it is coupled with an increase in users

- Adults are less likely to say e-cigarettes are a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes ( $34 \% \mathrm{vs} .39 \%$ in 2019 ) and to say that the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes aren't yet known ( $70 \%$ vs. $76 \%$ in 2019)
- And, there seems to be growing support for banning e-cigs ( $48 \%$ vs. $41 \%$ in 2019) and flavored e-cigs ( $55 \%$ vs. $46 \%$ in 2019)
- However, adults are more likely to say they have tried e-cigarettes ( $34 \%$ vs. $27 \%$ in 2019 ) and the proportion saying they use daily or recreationally has grown ( $15 \%$ vs. $13 \%$ in 2019)


## Detailed Findings

## COVID-19 and Cancer Care

## 1 in 4 U.S. Adults Say Routine Cancer Screening Tests Have Been Delayed or Cancelled Because of the Pandemic

Among those who were scheduled for a routine cancer screening test during the pandemic, nearly two-thirds say the test was delayed or cancelled, most commonly by their own volition.

## Delayed/Skipped Routine Cancer Screening Tests

Among those who were scheduled for a
screening test during the pandemic


## More Than 3 in 5 Who Delayed or Skipped Routine Cancer Screenings Concerned

Regardless of whether the delay was a personal choice or HCP requested, the concern remains the same.

Concern About Being Behind on Cancer Screening(s)
Among those who delayed or skipped


| Top 2 Box <br> Concern | Among those who <br> personally delayed <br> or skipped | Among those whose <br> HCP requested <br> delayed or skip |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ Very concerned | $\mathbf{6 4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{6 4 \%}$ |
| $\square$ Somewhat concerned |  |  |

- Not very concerned
- Not at all concerned


## At Least Three-Quarters Concerned About Themselves or Their Loved One with Cancer Contracting COVID-19

8 in 10 patients are concerned about contracting the virus and a similar proportion of caregivers are concerned their loved one will get COVID-19.

Concern About [Loved One] Contracting COVID-19
Among those who have/had cancer or whose love one is not deceased


## Most Patients Limiting Contact with Others, with Half Feeling They Have Had to Make a Lot of Sacrifices Because of Their Heightened Risk for COVID-19

Patients with active cancer are particularly likely to agree they have had to make a lot of sacrifices, that they wish they had more emotional support, could have used more practical support, and that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their physical health.

| Agreement with Statements About COVID-19 (\% Strongly/Somewhat agree) <br> Among those who have/had cancer |  | Active Cancer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| I have limited my contact with others because I am scared of getting COVID19 |  | 81\% |
| I have the help I need during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., someone to run errands if I need, help picking up medications, etc.) |  | 78\% |
| I have had to make a lot of sacrifices in my daily life because of my heightened risk for COVID-19 | 49\% | 58\% |
| The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on my mental health | $43 \%$ | 45\% |
| I wish I had more emotional support during the COVID-19 pandemic | 33\% | 42\% |
| The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on my physical health | 30\% | 41\% |
| I could have used more help during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., someone to run errands if I need, help picking up medications, etc.) | 22\% | 35\% |

## Around Half of Family Members and Caregivers Have Limited Contact with Their Loved One, with Many Wishing There Was More They Could Do to Help

Roughly two-thirds of family members and caregivers wish there was more they could do to support their loved one, both practically and emotionally. For caregivers whose loved one has active cancer or is in partial remission this is especially true. Family members and caregivers whose loved one's cancer is active or they are in partial remission are particularly likely to say the pandemic has had a negative impact on their loved one's mental and physical health.

Agreement with Statements About COVID-19
(\% Strongly/Somewhat agree)
Among those whose loved one is not deceased


| Activel <br> Partial <br> Remission | Caregiver <br> (C) | Active/ Partial Remission |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 81\% | 76\% | 75\% |
| 69\% | 71\% | 84\% |
| 66\% | 69\% | 77\% |
| 59\% | 51\% | 57\% |
| 67\% | 62\% | 72\% |
| 50\% | $73 \%{ }^{\text {B }}$ | 82\% |
| 49\% | 51\% ${ }^{\text {B }}$ | 64\% |

## Cancer Care Impacted by Pandemic for at Least 1 in 3 Touched by Cancer

Most common impacts relate to HCP visits being delayed or done via telemedicine instead of in-person. Caregivers are much more likely than patients or family member/loved ones to report COVID-19 has impacted their loved one's cancer care.

COVID-19 Impact on Cancer Care
Among those who have/had cancer or whose loved one is not deceased


## Patients with Active Cancer Most Likely to Report Impacts to Cancer Care Due to Pandemic

Half of patients with active cancer report some impact on their cancer care. Comparatively, the proportion of cancer patients overall reporting impacts is roughly a third.

Among those who have/had cancer

## Active Cancer

25\%
24\%
22\%
6\%
14\%
7\%
Did not participate in a cancer clinical trial as planned |*
$3 \%$
Other 1 1\%
None $\square 68 \%$

## COVID-19 Impact on Cancer Care



## Majority of Patients Who Met with HCP via Telemedicine During Pandemic Report Their HCP Initiated

However, only about half report delays or cancellations of HCP visits and cancer monitoring tests were HCP initiated with more being self initiated compared to telemedicine visits.

Who Initiated Delay or Cancellation
Among those who have/had cancer and their cancer care was impacted


## Inequities in Cancer

## Majorities Believe Certain Demographics Impact Cancer Access and Survival

For both, the most common impact is believed to be health insurance type or status, followed by income level and geographic location.

Items that Impact Likelihood a Person Is Able to...


## Black Adults More Likely Than Any Other Race to Say Race Impacts Access

Black adults are twice as likely as White and Asian adults to say race impacts access to the best possible cancer care. Black and Hispanic adults are more likely than White adults to say race impacts both access to the best possible cancer care as well as survival.

Items that Impact Likelihood a Person Is Able to...


## For Patients Who Actually Feel They Did Not Receive the Best Care, Uncertainty of How to Assess or Access Quality Care Tops List

Patients also report being limited by geographic location and cost. More than 1 in 10 cancer patients who feel they aren't/didn't receive the best possible cancer care say believe it is because of their race.

Reasons for Lack of Confidence in Quality of Cancer Care
Among those who have/had cancer and disagree about receiving good care


## Three in Five Agree Racism Can Impact the Care a Person Receives within the U.S. Healthcare System

Non-White adults are also more likely to believe Black Americans are less likely to have access to the same qualify of cancer care as White Americans.

Agreement with Statements About Access to Cancer Care (\% Strongly/Somewhat agree)

Racism can impact the care a person receives within the U.S. healthcare system.

Black Americans are less likely to have access to the same quality of cancer care as White Americans.

White
(A)



47\%

Black
Hispanic
Asian
$53 \% \quad 76 \%$ AD
(B)
(C)
(D)

70\% A
66\% A

60\% A
60\% A
71\% ACD


Black cancer patients are more likely than White cancer patients to agree with these statements

## Two-Thirds Believe People in Rural Areas Are Less Likely to Have Access to Same Quality Care as Those in Urban or Suburban Areas

Those in urban areas more likely than those in rural areas to agree. Those touched by cancer are more likely than those with no cancer experience to agree there are geographical inequities.

Agreement with Statements About Access to Cancer Care (\% Strongly/Somewhat agree)

|  | 67\% | Urban <br> (A) | Suburban <br> (B) | Rural (C) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Someone living in a rural area is less likely to have access to the same quality of cancer care as someone living in an urban or suburban area. |  | 69\% C | 67\% | 62\% |
|  |  | who are e with n nts, 72\% caregiv | uched by can cancer experi amily member vs. $64 \%$ no exp | rare more likely nce to agree ( $70 \%$ oved one, $71 \%$ erience) |

## Clinical Trial Myths

## CLINICAL TRIAL MYTHS

F $F$

## Only About Half of U.S. Adults Say They Are Knowledgeable About Clinical Trials

Few feel very knowledgeable - even patients. Three-quarters perceive there is some risk involved with clinical trials, with about 1 in 5 believing there is a lot of risk.

## Knowledge of Clinical Trials



Perception of Risk Involved with Clinical Trials


Those with no cancer experience are more likely than those touched by cancer to believe there is no risk at all involved with clinical trials (11\% vs. $5 \%$ have/had cancer, $6 \%$ family member/loved one, $4 \%$ caregiver)

## Three-Quarters of Adults Agree Participating in a Clinical Trail is Worth the Risks for Benefit of Greater Good

Fewer - though still a majority - agree the risks are worth it for their own benefit. Two-thirds wish they knew more about how clinical trials worked.

Agreement with Statements About Clinical Trials
Participating in a clinical trial is worth the risks for the benefit of the greater good

If I had COVID-19, I would be willing to participate in a clinical trial for
a COVID-19 treatment



Participating in a clinical trial is worth the risks for my own benefit


I wish I knew more about how clinical trials worked

## Despite Majority Reporting They Would Be Willing to Participate in Cancer Clinical Trial, Many Hold Inaccurate Beliefs About Them

Three-quarters of U.S. adults would be willing to participate in a cancer clinical trial, despite a similar proportion saying some patients receive a placebo and half saying cancer clinical trial participants are just part of an experiment and are not receiving the best possible care. Only two-thirds of patients would be willing to participate, perhaps because nearly 9 in 10 believe that they might receive a placebo, and many feel
they are a last resort.

Agreement with Statements About Cancer Clinical Trials
[If I had cancer] I would be willing to participate in a clinical trial

Some cancer patients who participate in clinical trials may receive a placebo and not actual treatment

Clinical trials are usually a last resort for cancer patients who have run out of all other treatment options

All cancer patients should consider participating in a clinical trial

Cancer patients who participate in clinical trials are not receiving the best possible cancer care, they are just part of an experiment


## Demographics



## Children in HH





## DEMOGRAPHICS - GENERAL POPULATION



## Household Income



7\% Less than \$15,000
$7 \% \quad \$ 15,000$ to $\$ 24,999$
$7 \% \quad \$ 25,000$ to $\$ 34,999$
11\% $\$ 35,000$ to $\$ 49,999$
$16 \% \quad \$ 50,000$ to $\$ 74,999$
$13 \% \quad \$ 75,000$ to $\$ 99,999$
$34 \% \quad \$ 100,000+$
5\% Prefer not to Answer

## Adults in HH



## Marital Status



29\% Never married
53\% Married/Living with Partner
11\% Divorced
2\% Separated
5\% Widow/Widower

## Employment

41\% Employed full time


## Political Party

10\% Employed part time
5\% Self-employed full time
4\% Self-employed part time
6\% Not employed, but looking for work
2\% Not employed, and not looking for work
4\% Not employed, unable to work due to disability or illness
19\% Retired
4\% Student



Children in HH



## DEMOGRAPHICS - HAVE/HAD CANCER



## Marital Status



7\% Never married
64\% Married/Living with Partner
15\% Divorced
2\% Separated
12\% Widow/Widower

## Employment

22\% Employed full time



## Political Party

Republican

Democrat Independent
Other

9\% Employed part time
2\% Self-employed full time
3\% Self-employed part time
4\% Not employed, but looking for work
1\% Not employed, and not looking for work
7\% Not employed, unable to work due to disability or illness
50\% Retired

* Student

2\% Stay at home spouse/partner

## Cancer Profiles

## Cancer Type

Time of Diagnosis
12\% In the past year
12\% 1 - less than 2 years ago
31\% 2-5 years ago
18\% 6-10 years
$\mathbf{2 5 \%}$ More than 10 years ago

* Prefer not to answer

2\% Not sure

## Current Cancer Status



Time of Diagnosis

8\% In the past year
13\% 1 - less than 2 years ago
23\% 2-5 years ago
19\% 6-10 years
$33 \%$ More than 10 years ago
2\% Prefer not to answer
3\% Not sure

## Current Cancer Status



## Cancer Type

| Breast | 21\% |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| Lung | 12\% |
| Prostate | 12\% |
| Uterine/Ovarian | 6\% |
| Colorectal | 5\% |
| Leukemia | 5\% |
| Kidney | 5\% |
| Melanoma | 5\% |
| Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma | 4\% |
| Esophagus | 3\% |
| Pancreatic | 3\% |
| Thyroid | 3\% |
| Stomach | 3\% |
| Bladder | 3\% |
| Liver | 2\% |
| Other | 9\% |

## Time of Diagnosis

10\% In the past year
12\% 1 - less than 2 years ago
31\% 2-5 years ago
19\% 6-10 years
26\% More than 10 years ago
1\% Prefer not to answer
1\% Not sure

## Current Cancer Status



## Appendix

## Research Methodology

## Method statement (to be included in all materials for public release)

This survey was conducted online in the U.S. by The Harris Poll on behalf of ASCO between July 21 - September 8, 2020 among 4,012 US adults aged 18+ and 1,142 adults with cancer. For all US adults age 18+ figures for age by gender, education, region, household size, income, marital status, and employment status were adjusted, as needed to population distributions from the US Census Bureau, separately for Hispanic, Black/African American (not Hispanic) and all other (not Hispanic). Then each race/ethnicity group was combined into an overall total based on their proportion within the US adult population. The adults age 18+ with cancer were weighted separately, as needed, using population distributions from the CDC's NHIS for those diagnosed with cancer, using the same demographic variables as above.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, The Harris Poll avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with $100 \%$ response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal. Respondents for this survey were selected among those who have agreed to participate in online surveys. No estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.


[^0]:    Harris Insights \& Analytics LLC, A Stagwell Company

