



CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

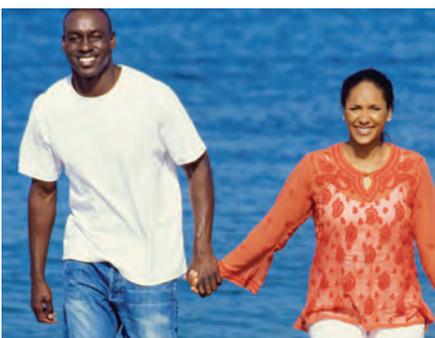
Millions of Americans are cancer survivors, living with, through, and beyond cancer. As the number of cancer survivors grows, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with partner organizations to help survivors throughout their cancer experience. The good news—people are living longer after a cancer diagnosis.

However, low-income men and women and those with little or no health insurance are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer at later stages, when survival times are shorter. In light of these concerns, public health initiatives aimed at understanding and preventing cancer, recurrence, and the long-term effects of treatment, as well as encouraging healthy behaviors, are essential.

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Nearly 12 million
Americans are alive
after being told they
have cancer.

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About two-thirds of
people with cancer are
expected to live at least
5 years after diagnosis.

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Due to medical
advances, people are
living many years after a
cancer diagnosis.



Life after cancer

Cancer survivors often face physical, emotional, social, and financial challenges as a result of their cancer diagnosis and treatment. Public health professionals are striving to address survivorship and quality of life issues such as the coordination of care, patient-provider communication, health promotion, support services, and fertility preservation.

Cancer survivors are at greater risk for recurrence and for developing second cancers due to:

- The effects of treatment.
- Unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, obesity, and lack of physical activity.
- Genetics.
- Risk factors that contributed to the first cancer.

What CDC Is Doing

CDC's cancer survivorship activities include:

- Assisting states, tribal groups, territories, and Pacific Island Jurisdictions in their efforts to address cancer survivorship through Comprehensive Cancer Control initiatives.
- Studying various aspects of survivorship, including:
 - » Gathering information about cancer survivors through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to plan, implement, and evaluate cancer control strategies.
 - » Barriers to receiving appropriate follow-up care and practicing healthy behaviors after colorectal (colon) cancer.
 - » The effectiveness of a nationally available survivorship program among a disadvantaged population.
 - » Types of physicians who provide long-term care to cancer survivors.
 - » Quality of life related to men's choice in prostate cancer treatment.
- Supporting the development and distribution of a broad range of cancer survivorship informational materials through the LIVESTRONG National Cancer Survivorship Resource Center.
- Funding national organizations to develop and share information that will enhance the quality of life for hematologic (blood) cancer survivors, family, and caregivers, and increase knowledge among the medical community.



For more information about CDC's cancer survivorship initiatives, visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship.



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