

Office of Cancer Survivorship (OCS)

survivorship.cancer.gov

Dedicated to Enhancing the Length and Quality of Life of Cancer Survivors

The Office of Cancer Survivorship (OCS) was created in 1996 to promote a better understanding of the unique needs of the growing population of cancer survivors and to enhance our ability to address those needs. OCS is part of NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, but the office also leads survivorship collaborations with other parts of NCI, other institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and agencies outside NIH, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At NCI alone, there are numerous researchers and clinicians who are experts in various areas of cancer survivorship.

OCS works to improve the quality and length of survival of all persons diagnosed with cancer, to better understand the effects of cancer and its treatment, and to identify methods to prevent and mitigate adverse outcomes. The office supports research that both examines and addresses the long- and short-term physical, psychological, social, and economic effects of cancer and its treatment among all cancer survivors and their families.

Cancer survivorship research is accomplished through

- a variety of funding mechanisms, including through targeted funding opportunities and investigator-initiated applications to support grants (e.g., R01, R21, R03)
- strategic planning with researchers, health professionals, advocacy organizations, and the public to build common research agendas
- collaborations within NCI and with other organizations to understand survivors' needs for education, communication, and quality health care

*An individual is considered a **cancer survivor** from the time of diagnosis through the balance of his or her life.*

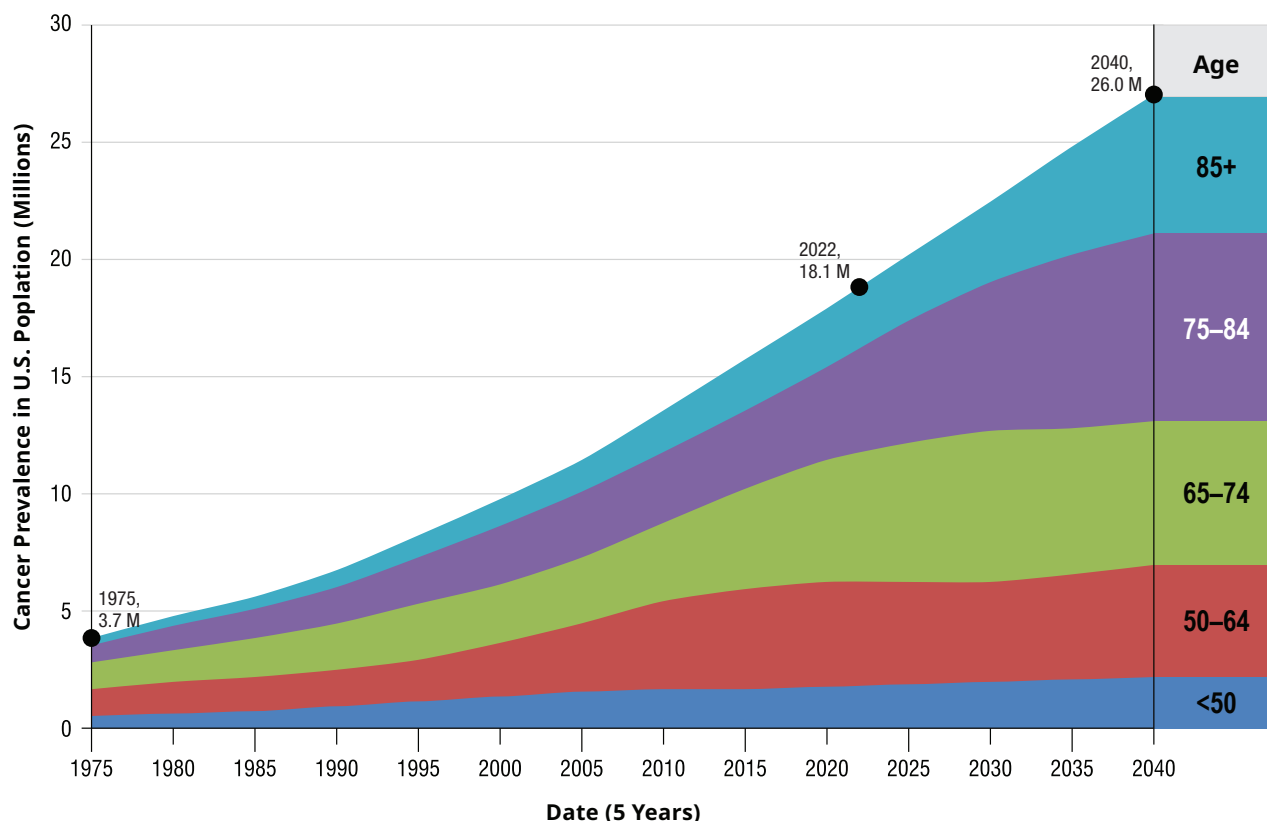
There are many types of survivors, including those living with cancer and those free of cancer. Caregivers, family members, and friends are also impacted by the survivorship experience.

Cancer Survivorship Figures¹

- As of January 2022, it is estimated that there are 18.1 million cancer survivors in the United States, representing approximately 5% of the population.
- The number of cancer survivors in the United States is projected to increase to 26 million by 2040.
- In the United States, 78% of survivors are currently 60 years of age or older.
- Most cancer survivors in the United States are long-term or very long-term cancer survivors, representing a substantial proportion of the population.
- In the United States, 70% of survivors have lived 5 or more years since diagnosis; 48% have lived 10 or more years since diagnosis; and 19% have lived 20 or more years since diagnosis.

¹ Tonorezos E, Devasia T, Mariotto AB, Mollica MA, Gallicchio L, Green P, Doose M, Brick R, Streck B, Reed C, de Moor JS, Prevalence of Cancer Survivors in the United States, JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 2024; <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djae135>

Cancer Prevalence and Projections in U.S. Population from 1975 to 2040



References

[Bluthmann SM, Mariotto AB, Rowland JH. Anticipating the “Silver Tsunami”: Prevalence Trajectories and Comorbidity Burden among Older Cancer Survivors in the United States. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2016 Jul;25\(7\):1029-36.](#)

[Miller KD, Nogueira L, Devasia T, Mariotto AB, Yabroff KR, Jemal A, Kramer J and Siegel RL. Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Statistics. CA A Cancer J Clin. 2022.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Information about survivorship funding opportunities can be found at cancercontrol.cancer.gov/funding_apply.html. Some current research funding opportunities include

- [Pragmatic Trials across the Cancer Control Continuum \(PAR-22-256\)](#)
- [Improving Care and Outcomes for Cancer Survivors from Sexual and Gender Minority \(SGM\) Populations \(PAR-23-292\)](#)
- [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Disparities Affecting Healthcare Utilization and Health Outcomes Among Childhood Cancer Survivors \(NOT-CA-22-029\)](#)

More Information

You can learn more about the Office of Cancer Survivorship on our website, survivorship.cancer.gov, find us on X at [@NCICancerSurv](https://twitter.com/NCICancerSurv), or sign up for our listserv by going to cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/e-newsletter/subscribe. Questions can be sent to the office at NCIOCSInquiries@nih.gov. Additional resources to address questions regarding diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship issues include

- NCI Cancer Information Service
1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)
TTY 1-800-332-8615
- NCI Online
cancer.gov



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