

ECHO IDAHO

Cancer Survivorship

Survivorship Care Through the Lens of Social Determinants of Health

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None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.



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Social Determinants of Health: Cancer Survivorship

- What does that even mean?
- How does this impact lives?
- How does this impact cancer survivors?
- What are examples of impact?
- How can we address these social determinants?

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

non-medical factors that influence health outcomes



SDOH (continued)

- Condition in which people are born into, grow, work, live, and age
 - income
 - education
 - employment
 - social status
- Broader forces and systems
 - economic policies
 - development agendas
 - social norms
 - racism
 - climate change
 - political structures

SDOH Impact

- Better understanding into public health work
 - strengthens public health capacity
 - health equity
- Those experiencing poverty and discrimination
 - Quality of Jobs
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Safe Environments
 - Healthcare

SDOH Impact on Survivorship

- SDOH profoundly influences cancer outcomes
 - prevention
 - delayed diagnosis
 - limited access to treatment
 - poorer survival rates
 - and beyond



SDOH Examples of Impact

- Patients in the lowest-income bracket have a 13% higher risk of death
- Black patients have a 21% higher mortality rate from breast cancer
- Hispanic patients are 30% less likely to receive timely colorectal cancer screening
- Adolescents and Young Adults (AYAs) are underrepresented in clinical trial
- Elderly patients are less likely to receive aggressive treatments due to age-related biases
- Lesbian/bisexual women are 40% less likely to receive mammograms
- Rural patients are 15–30% more likely to present with late-stage cancer
- Psychosocial factors, including stress, anxiety, and depression correlated with treatment initiation delays exceeding 60 days, increasing disease progression and mortality risk

SDOH Examples of Impact (continued)

- Under-resourced patients are 30% less likely to receive timely treatment for anxiety and depression due to financial barriers, inadequate insurance coverage, and geographic disparities
- 44% of homeless individuals present with stage III or IV cancer, compared to 36% of housed patients
- African American and Hispanic communities are disproportionately situated near industrial zones emitting known carcinogens such as benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and ethylene oxide.
- Language barriers and low health literacy significantly hinder patient–provider communication, treatment adherence, and cancer outcomes
- Financial toxicity reduces quality of life, impair treatment adherence, and ultimately worsen survival outcomes

How to Address SDOH for Cancer Survivors

- Policy reforms, community-based interventions, and technological advancements (an intersectional approach)
 - Medicaid expansion
 - Community outreach
 - Mandate implicit bias training
 - Increase clinical trial diversity
 - Provide age-specific survivorship care plans
 - Develop LGBTQ+ specific provider training
 - Expand telemedicine oncology services
 - Improve transportation infrastructure

Key Points

- SDOH are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes
- SDOH profoundly influence cancer outcomes
- SDOH disproportionately affects marginalized populations
- An intersectional approach must be used to address the SDOH within cancer survivors
- Integration into clinical practice and health policy will improve health inequity
- Addressing SDOH within the healthcare system can foster a more just and inclusive future for cancer treatment and survivorship

References

- CDC, [Social Determinants of Health | Public Health Gateway | CDC](#)
- World Health Organization, [Social determinants of health](#)
- National Cancer Institute, [Social Determinants of Health](#)
- National Library of Medicine, [From Diagnosis to Survivorship: The Role of Social Determinants in Cancer Care - PMC](#)