



Impact of Financial Security on Physical and Mental Health and Symptoms in Cancer Survivors.

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Introduction

- A diagnosis of cancer carries a significant economic burden. Studies have shown that due to out-of-pocket medical expenses, a diagnosis of cancer is responsible for 17-50% of all bankruptcies in the United States, creating devastation for cancer survivors and their families.
- It is estimated that there are over 15 million cancer survivors in the United States and the number of survivors is expected to increase to over 20 million by 2026.
- Recent literature shows that cancer symptoms such as fatigue, pain, depression, and anxiety may persists long after cancer treatment is completed, putting even long-term cancer survivors at risk for unmet physical and mental health needs.
- Physical and mental health symptoms play an important role in the quality of life and mortality of cancer survivors.
- Despite this, there has been little study of the relationship between perceived financial security and physical and mental health symptoms.

Aims

Identify the impact of patient reported financial security on physical and mental symptoms in cancer survivors, controlling for demographic and social factors.

Method

Participants:

- 57 Cancer Survivors and their significant others.
- Oregon residence and diagnosed with cancer 12-36 months prior to study entry.
- Participants completed a mail survey.
- Measures included:
 - Physical and Mental health scale (SF-36)
 - Fatigue Scale
 - Pain Severity
 - Anxiety Scale
 - Depression Scale
 - Perceived Financial Security Scale

Analysis Plan:

- A hierarchical 2-step process was used
 - Step 1- multiple linear regression using age, gender, education, years since cancer diagnosis, and number of children.
 - Step 2- added financial security as the variable of interest.

Results

Physical Symptoms

- Financial Security was a significant predictor of overall physical health, fatigue, and pain when controlling for age, gender, years since cancer diagnosis, and number of children.

Mental Symptoms

- Financial Security was a significant predictor of depression and anxiety when controlling for age, gender, years since cancer diagnosis, and number of children.

Table 1: Physical Health Symptoms and Financial Security

SF-36 Physical Health Summary	β	ΔR^2
Age	-.290	.269
Gender	2.210	
Education (completed College)	-.906	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	3.746	
Number of Children	.817	
Financial Security	-9.226***	
Fatigue		
Age	.050	.185
Gender	-2.521	
Education (completed College)	5.645	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	5.474	
Number of Children	.167	
Financial Security	-8.837**	
Pain Severity		
Age	.017	.364
Gender	-.171	
Education (completed College)	-.323	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	-.311	
Number of Children	-.074	
Financial Security	1.782***	

***p<.001 (significant)
**p<.01 (significant)
*p<.05 (significant)

Table 2: Mental Health Symptoms and Financial Security

SF-36 Mental Health Summary	β	ΔR^2
Age	.089	.039
Gender	-1.095	
Education (completed College)	8.086*	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	4.147	
Number of Children	1.384	
Financial Security	-3.636	
Depression		
Age	-.030 ±	.081
Gender	2.393	
Education (completed College)	-8.051*	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	-5.731*	
Number of Children	-.097	
Financial Security	4.814*	
Anxiety		
Age	-.096	.069
Gender	2.365	
Education (completed College)	-3.514*	
Years since Cancer Diagnosis	-1.658	
Number of Children	-7.14	
Financial Security	2.225*	

***p<.001 (significant)
**p<.01 (significant)
*p<.05 (significant)

Discussion

- Results show that perceived financial security plays a key role in overall physical and mental health and symptoms in cancer survivors.
- Financial Security has largest impact on overall physical health and pain severity.
- By better understanding the role that perceived financial security has on physical and mental health symptoms, appropriate interventions can be applied to those cancer survivors who are at the most risk for increased physical and mental health symptoms.

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