CANCER AND CAREERS partnered with Harris Interactive to better understand the attitudes and behaviors of unemployed people with cancer. A total of 201 respondents participated in the research. Respondents were 18 years of age or older, diagnosed with cancer and unemployed but looking for work.

**Financial Necessity is the driving factor behind most cancer survivors' desire to return to work**

- I need to work for financial reasons: 79%
- I currently feel well enough to keep working: 39%
- I want things to feel as normal as possible: 36%
- I do not feel like myself when I am not working: 33%
- Work keeps me feeling productive and busy so I am not always worrying about the cancer diagnosis: 31%
- I want to continue on my career path/trajecotry: 30%
- I need health insurance: 28%

**Other: 12%**

**Cancer impacted the work life of many patients and survivors**

- More than half of cancer survivors surveyed said their diagnosis impacted their work in some way, with many (63%) taking time off or quitting their job altogether.

- I had to take extra days off: 31%
- I had to use the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) time: 20%
- I had to work a reduced schedule of hours: 14%
- I had to quit my job: 12%
- My healthcare professionals who treated my cancer advised me to stop working during my treatment: 12%
- I explored options my employer made to accommodate my cancer diagnosis and treatment: 9%
- I believe I was fired from my job because of my cancer diagnosis: 8%
- I had to change jobs and look for a new career: 6%

**CANCER IMPACTED THE WORK LIFE OF MANY PATIENTS AND SURVIVORS**

- More than half of cancer survivors surveyed said their diagnosis impacted their work life in some way, with many (63%) taking time off or quitting their job altogether.

- A majority (84%) of those surveyed said an organization like Cancer and Careers would be beneficial.

- Most surveyed cancer patients and survivors (78%) agreed that they want to work, and more than 80 percent (83%) agree that cancer survivors who receive support from employers are more likely to thrive in the workplace.

- Nearly three-quarters (71%) agree that addressing the more practical issues of balancing cancer and work is essential, and two-thirds (66%) said that people surviving cancer need more information, tools and support.

**Returning to work can be a challenge for cancer patients and survivors concerned about disclosing their diagnosis.**

- Many cancer survivors are concerned about the impact their cancer can have on finding a new job. In particular, they worry that they will be treated differently or ultimately, not get hired.

**Agreement with work statements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Statements</th>
<th>Strongly/Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly/Somewhat Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel prospective employers would treat me differently if I told them about my cancer diagnosis</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel I am less likely to get hired than a healthy person</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that my cancer diagnosis has limited my job prospects and my ability to get hired</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel my cancer diagnosis has negatively affected my long-term career goals</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel I am less likely to get an interview than a healthy person</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel I am discriminated against when looking for work due to my cancer diagnosis</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial necessity is the driving factor behind most cancer survivors' desire to return to work**

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**A good work environment is critical for cancer patients to succeed in a new job, and support is still widely needed to help balance cancer and work**

- People living with cancer or cancer survivors that receive support from their employer are more likely to thrive in the workplace: 83%
- People living with cancer or cancer survivors are aided in their treatment and recovery by work: 77%
- People with cancer or cancer survivors looking for work need more information, tools and support on how to balance their health and their work life: 66%
- Health care professionals could do a better job at advising cancer patients on how to balance the demands of living with cancer and needing to find or maintain a work life: 54%

**About Cancer and Careers**

Cancer and Careers, founded in 2001, is a national nonprofit organization that empowers and educates people with cancer to thrive in their workplace by providing expert advice, interactive tools and educational events. Cancer and Careers reaches nearly 300,000 people per year online, in print and in person with services that include a comprehensive website, free publications in English and Spanish, legal and insurance information, career coaching, resume review, and national events and speaking engagements for working people with cancer and their healthcare providers and coworkers. Cancer and Careers is a program of Cosmetic Executive Women Foundation.