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TOP 10 ABSTRACT WINNER

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Differences in Job Presenteeism and Challenges between Individuals with Cancer & Cancer Caregivers

Cancer caregivers often provide complex medical care and support to loved ones with cancer, a role that can be demanding. Such responsibilities often conflict with other commitments, including work. However, little research has compared the employment experiences of cancer caregivers with those of cancer patients (pts) themselves. We analyzed Cancer Nation's 2023 State of Survivorship Survey data to assess negative workplace experiences associated with cancer for respondents who had full-/part-time employment at the time of their (pt) or a loved one's (caregiver) treatment. The main outcome was a binary, composite measure of negative workplace experiences from cancer derived from presenteeism questions (e.g. have you missed work or lost salary). Descriptive statistics compared demographic & clinical characteristics between pts and caregivers. Multivariable logistic regression assessed associations between group (pt, caregiver) and likelihood of negative work experiences from cancer, accounting for other risk factors. The analysis included 904 employed respondents (592 pts; 312 caregivers) from across the United States, including ~16% in rural areas. Gender was fairly balanced (pts 49% female, caregivers 55%). Caregivers most often cared for a parent (50%) or spouse (24%). Caregivers were often caring for loved ones diagnosed at an older age (59 vs. 49 years), more likely to be Hispanic/Latino (14% vs. 7%) and single/never married (21% vs. 11%). Overall, 65% of pts and 73% of caregivers reported negative employment effects; after adjustment for other risk factors, effects were similar (adjusted OR:0.98,95% CI:0.67-1.45). In regressions, caregivers had reduced odds of negative workplace effects for diagnosis age (aOR:0.98,95% CI:0.99-1.84), but increased odds of negative effects for stage (stage III aOR:1.88, 95% CI:1.17-3.34; stage IV aOR:2.02,95% CI:1.15-3.56), and receiving systemic therapies (aOR:1.56,95% CI: 1.10-2.21). We observed no significant differences in odds of negative workplace effects by gender, race/ethnicity, income or insurance. Among those employed at their/loved one's cancer diagnosis, caregivers encounter negative workplace consequences at a rate similar to those by pts with cancer. Caregiving for a loved one with advanced stage cancers or receiving systemic therapy amplified such effects. Our findings

offer a foundation for quantifying the workplace burden of cancer and guide development of targeted interventions to support caregivers.