Today there are more cancer survivors than ever due to advancing research. Given that cancer is more prevalent among older populations, Florida’s demographic positions the state to have one of the largest increases in cancer survivors over the next decade.

### CANCER SURVIVAL CHALLENGES

A cancer survivor is any person with a history of cancer, from the time of diagnosis through the balance of life. The challenges don’t end for some cancer survivors and their families since many face physical, mental and economic hardships.

#### FINDING AND RECEIVING SUPPORT

Florida-based advocacy groups include:

- **American Cancer Society**  
  (multiple Florida locations)
- **Gilda’s Club**  
  South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale)
- **Live For Today Foundation**  
  (Jacksonville)
- **Sisters Network**  
  (NE Florida, Orlando, Tampa)
- **The Cancer Support Community**  
  Greater Miami

Support groups are also often provided by local hospitals and cancer care centers.

### SURVIVING CANCER IN FLORIDA

- **Incidence Rate**
  - 428.5*
  - Compared to Nat. Avg: -4.5%
- **Mortality Rate**
  - 160.3*
  - Compared to Nat. Avg: -5%
- **Survivorship Rate**
  - 1,342,590 people
  - Compared to Nat. Avg: 8.6%
  - *4.8% of the U.S. population; 62% are 65+ years

### TOP RISK FACTORS IN THE STATE

- **Overweight/Obesity** 26.8%
- **Smoking** 16.8%
- **Tanning Bed Usage** 7.5%

### Economic and Financial Hardship

| 2010 | Cancer care in Florida costs approx. $12.7B |
| 2020 | Estimated to increase by 96% to $24.9B |

Cancer survivors younger than 65+ have a heavier economic burden due to employment disability and loss of productivity.

### Long-Term Physical Effects of Cancer and Its Treatment*

- Fatigue
- Chronic Pain
- Hormonal Changes
- Cancer Recurrence or Secondary Cancer

*Effects may vary by cancer type or location, treatment and the cancer survivor.

### Mental and Emotional Health Challenges

- Depression
- Fear of Recurrence
- Anxiety
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Survivor’s Guilt

### Economic and Financial Hardship

- Music notes
- Dollars

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Cancer survivors younger than 65+ have a heavier economic burden due to employment disability and loss of productivity.

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**References:**