



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: ELIZABETH HARRINGTON/BILL MCINTURFF, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2017

SUBJECT: KEY FINDINGS – NATIONAL SURVEYS OF CANCER PATIENTS, SURVIVORS, AND CAREGIVERS

KEY FINDINGS:

Access to paid medical/family leave makes an important difference for cancer patients, survivors, and their caregivers.

- Having access to and using paid medical/family leave significantly increases self-described positive outcomes for cancer patients and survivors in:
 - Being able to complete their treatment
 - Making it to all of their appointments
 - Managing their symptoms or side effects
 - Deciding about which treatments to receive and where to receive them
 - The number of treatment options to which they had access
 - Affording their treatments

Patients/Survivors

% Positive Impact – Have/Don't Have Paid Medical/Family Leave	Patients/Survivors	
	Have Paid Leave (51%)	Don't Have Paid Leave (49%)
Being able to complete your treatment	59%	35%
Your doctor or treatment appointments	56%	33%
Managing your symptoms or side effects	50%	30%
The decisions you made about which treatments to receive or where to receive them	46%	29%
Affording your treatments	44%	25%
The number of different treatment options to which you had access	43%	23%

Patients/Survivors

% Positive Impact – Used/Didn't Use Paid Medical/Family Leave	Have Paid Leave & Used It (27%)	Have Paid Leave But Didn't Use It (24%)
Being able to complete your treatment	80%	34%
Your doctor or treatment appointments	77%	31%
Managing your symptoms or side effects	70%	27%
The decisions you made about which treatments to receive or where to receive them	66%	23%
Affording your treatments	64%	22%
The number of different treatment options to which you had access	63%	21%

- Having access to and using paid medical/family leave significantly increases self-described positive outcomes for caregivers of cancer patients and survivors in:
 - Being able to go to their loved one's doctor or treatment appointments
 - Their ability to provide care for their loved one
 - Their own health

Caregivers

% Positive Impact – Have/Don't Have Paid Medical/Family Leave	Have Paid Leave (43%)	Don't Have Paid Leave (57%)
Being able to go to your loved one's doctor or treatment appointments	72%	47%
Your ability to provide care for your loved one	70%	44%
Your own health	53%	29%

Caregivers

% Positive Impact – Used/Didn't Use Paid Medical/Family Leave	Have Paid Leave & Used It (23%)	Have Paid Leave But Didn't Use It (20%)
Being able to go to your loved one's doctor or treatment appointments	89%	53%
Your ability to provide care for your loved one	88%	51%
Your own health	53%	29%

Roughly half of cancer patients and survivors say they have access to paid medical/family leave. Caregivers have lower levels of access to this type of leave.

- 51% of patients, 51% of survivors, and 43% of caregivers report having access to paid medical/family leave during their illness/their loved one's illness.
 - Those sub-groups who are more likely to report having paid medical/family leave across all three survey populations are: Men ages 18-54, respondents with higher levels of education and income, respondents who were employed full-time during illness/caring for loved one, respondents working in larger companies (1,000+ employees), and respondents with employer provided health insurance coverage.
- Among those respondents with access to paid medical/family leave, 52% of patients, 54% of survivors, and 53% of caregivers reported using it during their illness/loved one's illness.
 - There is a difference in the demographic make-up of those who are more likely to have paid medical/family leave and those who are most likely to use it. Those sub-groups most likely to report using this type of leave tend to be respondents with lower levels of income and education, women, and minorities.

Among those respondents who either used their paid medical/family leave or unpaid leave, significant majorities report returning to work with the same employer (81% cancer patients, 95% cancer survivors, 95% caregivers).

Overall, half of cancer patients (50%), a third of cancer survivors (34%), and nearly half of caregivers (48%) report experiencing problems related to financial pressures caused by not being able to work or having to reduce the amount of hours one can work during their illness/their loved one's illness.

- Those respondents who have paid medical/family leave are less likely to report experiencing problems related to financial pressures than those who do not have it.

METHODOLOGY:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), Public Opinion Strategies conducted two national online surveys in September 2017. The surveys were conducted as follows:

- N=405 cancer patients (N=113) and cancer survivors (N=292) that had been diagnosed with cancer within the past 12 years who were employed at some point during their illness, conducted from September 18-29, 2017.
- N=400 caregivers of cancer patients and survivors diagnosed within the past 12 years who were employed at some point during caring for their loved one, conducted September 18-28, 2017. Caregivers were defined as family members or friends who are currently caring for or in the past year or two have cared for a cancer patient or survivor meeting the above criteria. Respondents were not professional caregivers.
- The confidence interval for each sample (N=405/N=400) is $\pm 5.6\%$.
- Paid medical/family leave was defined as an extended period of time off from work during which a person is still paid while they are away from work to recover from a serious illness, take care of a seriously ill family member, or bond with a newborn or newly adopted child.