

## Disparities in Health and Quality of Life after a Cancer Diagnosis

Several segments of the population are disproportionately affected by cancer- and cancer treatment-related health complications that adversely affect health and quality of life after a cancer diagnosis. Examples of these disparities include the following:

**TWO-FOLD**  
INCREASED RISK

African American women had a **two-fold increased risk of breast cancer-related lymphedema** (swelling in the arms that can cause pain and problems in functioning) compared with white women.

**23%**  
MORE LIKELY

Cancer survivors who lived in rural areas were **23 percent more likely to report psychological distress** compared with those in urban areas.

**50%**  
MORE LIKELY

Colorectal cancer survivors who had low socioeconomic status were **50 percent more likely to report clinically significant anxiety and depression** compared with those who had high socioeconomic status.