

## Disproportionate Burden of Cancer and COVID-19 in Disadvantaged Segments of the U.S. Population

Cancer patients belonging to racial and ethnic minorities and other medically underserved populations in the U.S. also experience a disparate burden of COVID-19, largely because of the same complex and interconnected factors that drive cancer health disparities.



Examples below underscore concerns among researchers that the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer patients from disadvantaged segments of the U.S. population, if left unchecked, will likely compound cancer health disparities:

### COVID-19 Infections

Black patients with multiple myeloma had more than a four times higher likelihood of COVID-19 infection compared to White patients with multiple myeloma.

### Severe Symptoms

Hispanic patients with cancer were 38 percent more likely to develop severe symptoms from COVID-19 infection compared to non-Hispanic White patients with cancer.

### Worse Illness

Despite the similar distribution of cancer type, cancer status, and anticancer therapy at the time of COVID-19 diagnosis, Black patients presented with worse illness and had significantly worse COVID-19 severity.