

## DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER A CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Several segments of the population have been found to be 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, which are a result of complex and interrelated factors (see sidebar **Why Do U.S. Cancer Health Disparities Exist?** p. 15), 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 (259).

**28%**  
HIGHER

Adolescents and young adults surviving two or more years after a Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis who lived in low socioeconomic neighborhoods had 28 percent higher likelihood of respiratory system diseases compared with those in high socioeconomic neighborhoods (260).

MORE THAN  
**TWICE**

Black women with breast cancer who were being treated with HER2-targeted therapeutics had more than twice the rate of heart damage (cardiotoxicity) as white women and therefore a significantly greater probability of incomplete therapy (261).

**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 (262).

**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 (263).