

**Nationally  
representative  
survey**

**4,887  
U.S. adults**

**20%\***  
have / had cancer

**Alternative Medicine: Widespread Misconceptions**



**A surprising number of Americans believe that cancer can be cured solely through alternative therapies**

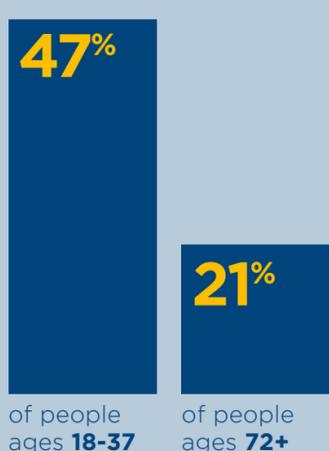
**Nearly 4 in 10 Americans**



**38%** of caregivers to cancer patients

**22%** of people who have/had cancer

**Younger people** are most likely to hold this view



**Importance of Opioids for Cancer Pain**



**73%**

of Americans say cancer patients should **not have access to opioids unduly restricted**



**40%**

of cancer patients who used opioids in the past 12 months had **trouble accessing them**

**Medical Marijuana: Americans' Views**

**Americans support medical marijuana, but access is limited**

**83%**

of Americans **support** the use of medical marijuana among cancer patients

**48%**

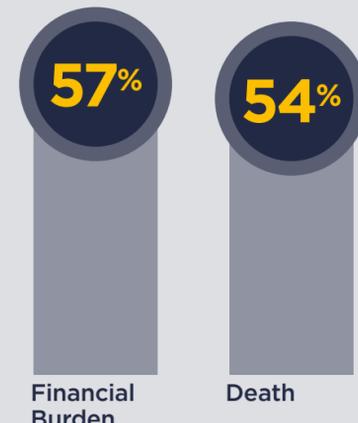
of cancer patients who used medical marijuana in the past year had **difficulty accessing it**<sup>†</sup>

**58%**

of patients wish they had **more information** about the benefits of medical marijuana for symptom relief

**Cancer's Financial and Access Challenges**

Just as many Americans are worried about **cancer's financial impact** as about **dying of cancer**



**61%**

of **caregivers** say they or a loved one have taken at least one onerous step to **pay for cancer care** including:

- 35% dipped into **savings account**
- 23% worked **extra hours**
- 14% postponed **retirement**
- 13% took on an **additional job**

**43%**

of **cancer patients** experienced barriers to accessing the best possible care due to **health insurance coverage**



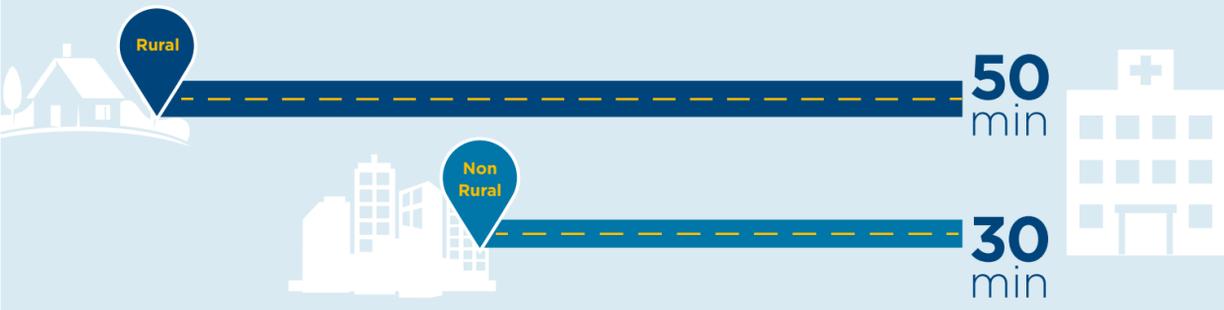
**Proximity to Cancer Care in Rural Areas**

**Rural patients** are nearly

**2x** as likely to say there **aren't enough cancer doctors** near them as non-rural patients

**Rural patients** typically spend

**66%** **more time traveling one way** to see their cancer doctor than those in non-rural areas



**Americans' Expectations of Government**

Regardless of political affiliation, Americans want the government to take concrete steps to **lower prescription drug costs**

**86%**

want the government to regulate the price of cancer drugs to lower their costs

**77%**

say it should be legal for U.S. residents to buy cancer drugs from other countries

Americans are calling for **greater investment in cancer research and care**, even if it means higher taxes or adding to the deficit

**67%**

say the government should spend more on finding cancer cures and treatments

**58%**

say the government should spend more to make screenings and care more affordable

**About The National Cancer Opinion Survey**  
ASCO's National Cancer Opinion Survey was established by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), in collaboration with The Harris Poll, to track the U.S. public's views on cancer research and care. As the world's leading organization of oncology professionals who care for people with cancer, ASCO believes it is critical to understand what the public, including patients, think of, expect, and need from the nation's cancer care system. The poll, supported by the Mission Endowment of ASCO's Conquer Cancer Foundation, is designed to be conducted annually to measure shifts in the public's perceptions of a range of cancer-related issues over time.

\*This survey was conducted online in the U.S. by The Harris Poll on behalf of ASCO between July 10 - August 10, 2018 among 4,038 U.S. adults ages 18+, including 152 people who have or had cancer. An oversample of 849 adults with cancer was added to have a large enough sample size to draw conclusions about the population of people with cancer, bringing the total number of adults with cancer surveyed to 1,001. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region, household income, household size, employment status and marital status were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online. The adults with cancer were weighted separately, as needed, using population distributions from the CDC's NHIS for those diagnosed with cancer, using the same demographic variables as above.

**About ASCO**  
Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world's leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at [www.ASCO.org](http://www.ASCO.org), explore patient education resources at [www.Cancer.Net](http://www.Cancer.Net), and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Visit [ascoaction.asco.org](http://ascoaction.asco.org) for the latest cancer policy developments. For an overview of current policy issues, read ASCO's cancer policy issue briefs.

<sup>†</sup>Small base (<100). Results are suggestive but not definitive.